

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

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Birds



BIRD REPORT for 1989

Compiled by W. F. CURTIS



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Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

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Photographs

In recent years the YNU have been unable to include photographs in the report. This had been due to, firstly, the vast quantity of information being received, and, secondly, to the limitation of the length of the report owing to financial constraints. This year we have been able to include photographs entirely due to a kind donation from *Birdline Northeast*. The Ornithological Committee of the YNU wish to express their gratitude to *Birdline Northeast* for this very generous contribution.

Birdline Northeast

A bird information service for the North East region which comprises the counties of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, North, South and West Yorkshire, Humberside and Lincolnshire. The service provides news of all birds of interest occurring in the region including summaries of movements, concentrations and arrivals, as well as presence of rarities and sub rarities in the area.

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Front cover: Gannets at Bempton by Paul Smith.

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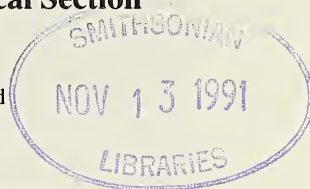
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Report for 1989 Edited by W. F. Curtis

300 species were recorded during the period covered by this report; a higher number than for many years; with 141 being confirmed as breeding and a further four species considered to have bred. Three species were recorded in Yorkshire for the first time; Blue-cheeked Bee-eater at Cowden; Lanceolated Warbler at Mappleton and Indigo Bunting at Flamborough. The first of these remained in the area for several days attracting many bird watchers who were rewarded with some excellent views of this startling bird. It is conceivable that it may have been in the area for several days prior to being reported as, after the event, locals talked of a 'bright, parrot-like bird' being seen for about a week. The Lanceolated Warbler was recorded in the very next Parish though unfortunately seen by only one observer; the presence of the bird being suppressed on the request of the landowner. The Indigo Bunting was caught at Flamborough and accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee who with hindsight have since reserved judgement as to the actual origin of the bird on learning of the importations of this species into Britain. It is regrettable that this should be so but as with many small, brightly coloured, birds (not to mention wildfowl), a certain doubt must exist. A little less rare though equally pleasing were Yorkshire's second records of Stilt Sandpiper; Terek Sandpiper; Black-throated Thrush; River Warbler and Dartford Warbler whilst the gales of early September brought the third Bulwer's Petrel. White-billed Divers were again well represented, once more adding fuel to the theory of a small, discreet, wintering population in the southern North Sea. A Hooded Merganser, a fine male, took up residence in a Scarborough park eliciting much discussion as to the origin of this bird. Of the less rare wildfowl, the regularly returning Aire Valley Ferruginous and Ring-necked Ducks put in appearances at the complex of flashes in the Swillington area. Red-crested Pochards were seen at several locations with Blue-winged Teal; Surf Scoter and Ruddy Shelduck also being reported. Ruddy Duck continues to spread both eastwards and northwards. The larger wading birds were well represented with Night Heron; Little Egret; Great White Egret; Purple Heron and Glossy Ibis all putting in appearances whilst raptors were no less well represented with Honey Buzzard; Black Kite; Red Kite; White-tailed Eagle; Montagu's Harrier and Red-footed Falcon all being recorded.

Stone Curlew; Collared Pratincole; White-rumped Sandpiper; Pectoral Sandpiper; Broad-billed Sandpiper; Great Snipe and Long-billed Dowitcher were all recorded making



it a good year for waders. The rarer gulls on the other hand were indeed rare with only Laughing Gull being reported while Gull-billed and Caspian Terns were the only members of that family to be seen. Of the lesser rarities, Little Gull was widespread with numbers continuing to increase in the autumn especially in the Hornsea area whilst Sabine's Gull was recorded in possibly the highest numbers ever; Roseate Terns were also widespread.

Passerines were well distributed particularly in the autumn with Booted, Greenish and Pallas's Warblers all recorded with two inland Marsh Warblers being caught at the same location. Desert Wheatear, Penduline Tit and Lesser Grey Shrike all being reported, taking up residence at their respective locations for short periods thus enabling many observers to see them. Little Bunting and Yellow-browed Warblers were both recorded in good numbers.

The weekend of 8th to 10th September produced an easterly gale which in turn produced possibly the finest seabird passage seen off this coast for many years. Record numbers of Manx Shearwater and Leach's Petrels were recorded for Yorkshire with many locations also reporting record high numbers of many of the more common seabirds.

This year was notable for the very early arrival of many migrants with the result that several were reported in the county on dates earlier than ever before. No fewer than five species fall into this category, those being; Sand Martin at Bolton-on-Swale on 7th March; Swallow at York on 6th March; Redstart at Thorpe Marsh on 28th March; Whinchat on 26th March at Fairburn Ings and Grasshopper Warbler at Blacktoft on 30th March. A House Martin at Fairburn Ings on 12th March was the earliest recorded arrival this century whilst the Swift at Hutton (V.C. 62) was the third earliest on record this century.

The highlight of the breeding season was a Pintail at Pulfin Bog with young, the first time for 23 years. Garganey apparently fared well along the Lower Derwent Ings as did several of the less rare waterfowl and waders. Grey Lag Goose continues to increase and spread particularly in the east where it is far more numerous than Canada Goose which although still increasing is doing so at a far slower rate. Both Snow Goose and Barnacle Goose again bred. Seabirds generally held their own at Flamborough though Gannet continues to increase at an average of some 10 per cent yet, even now, not to the detriment of other seabird numbers. The Kittiwake colony on the headland, at some 75,000 pairs, remains the largest by far in the British Isles.

Birds of prey continue to increase although information concerning some of the scarcer species is a little sparse or even non-existent. Quail this year were widespread though definite breeding was difficult to prove at many locations. Numbers of Nightjar would appear to be stable at Thorne Moor, the stronghold for this species in Yorkshire whilst Sand Martin continues to increase. Bearded Tit, along with many passerines, benefited from another mild winter thus having a high breeding population which also was very successful.

As always, there are some species that have not fared well; Barn Owl still continues to decline in Holderness and still pays an awful price for its predilection for hunting over grass verges alongside busy roads. Little Tern suffered from fox predation and very high tides though hopefully, at least, the former may be alleviated before long by means of fencing, thus a thriving colony may be established in the Easington area.

The report of 36 Grey Herons being shot out of a heronry at Wentworth makes horrendous reading; regrettably the perpetrators were not traced. On a brighter note, Goosander which has in the past been subject to shooting in some areas appears not to have suffered this year; let us hope this continues.

Finally, the Reports Committee wishes to express its gratitude to local recorders and the very many individuals throughout Yorkshire who have submitted their records to the YNU. As Editor, may I also extend my thanks for the assistance given by the V.C. Recorders in the compilation of this report.

Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observer, and have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC) where applicable. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Birds Species* (1973 and 1977) B.O.U. 1977.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

A poor year for this species along the coast though reported in every month. At Flamborough slightly larger counts during the early months with 73 on 18th February and 89 the following day; 95 on 25th and 122 on 26th. After 32 on 4th March few until early autumn when 73 were counted on 4th September with 61 on 27th; 60 on 28th and 61 on 30th. 30 to 70 were reported daily during October whilst in November 62 passed on 5th with 64 on 18th; 65 on 19th and 74 on 25th. Generally smaller numbers elsewhere though at Hornsea 66 counted on 18th February; 80 on 19th; 74 on 25th and 132 on 26th. 38 on 4th March then in autumn; up to 33 occasionally during September and October with 133 on 9th November. 103 north at Barmston on 15th December. Most birds at Spurn were not specifically identified though numbers were again low with between 61 and 89 reported on three days in late February. 40 at Filey in September was the maximum at that location. Very few reported in V.C. 62.

Away from the coast single birds were reported from the Humber at Sunk Island on 14th January; 28th October and 5th November. Two flew from the Humber south along the River Trent on 2nd December whilst inland one circled Swillington Ings before leaving to the southeast on 29th October.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

One to two birds reported from 11 locations along the coast with three at Spurn on 18th February; four on 3rd September and three on 9th October. At Holmpton three on 22nd October; five on 29th with five on 1st and 5th November; six on the 4th and 16 on 11th (SLJ, SPS). Three on 1st March at Hornsea where five were reported on 9th November.

One flew west to Sunk Island on 25th September before returning eastwards. One frequented the Rother Valley C.P. from 1st to 7th January (MS).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Reported along the coast at nine locations from January to early May and again from late August to December though one at Out Newton on 1st July (SPS). Two at Spurn on 2nd September; at Flamborough on 27th September; 21st and 27th October and 15th November. Two at Hornsea on 3rd October with three at Holmpton on 5th November (SLJ, SPS).

A first winter bird at Ripon Racecourse Gravel Pit from 21st December until the end of the year (JDP *et al*).

Addition to the 1988 Report: Three in Bridlington Bay on 29th February and 1st March. Single birds at that location and at Barmston on a further five occasions (PP).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

An adult in summer plumage flew north at Flamborough on 9th October (PAL). An adult flying south there on 27th December (PAL) was rejected by BBRC. Single bird on the sea at Barmston on 11th November is still under consideration by BBRC (PP).

Addition to the 1988 Report: One Bridlington Bay on 14th March still under consideration by the BBRC (PP).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

In V.C. 61 bred at Pulfin Bog; along the River Hull near Driffeld and along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas. High counts in this V.C. being 20 at Hornsea Mere on 1st April; 20+ on the River Hull near Driffeld on many occasions; 31 on the same waterway near Tophill Low Res. on 21st January and 19th February with 22 on the Lower Derwent on 8th April.

Bred in V.C. 62 at Strensall Common; Long Marston; Seamer Road Mere (Scarborough) and Brompton with up to ten present at Hackness and Hutton Buscel in winter.

In V.C. 63 bred as follows; Bradford area (one pair); Huddersfield area (eight pairs); Wath and Winterset areas (11 pairs); Sheffield area (13 pairs); Blacktoft (10 pairs); Barnsley (19 pairs); Knottingley (two pairs) and Doncaster (seven pairs). The total young reared being in the region of 140. Maxima reported being 33 at Wentworth Lakes from 20th September until 23rd October with 27 at Winterset on 14th November.

V.C. 64 reported no obvious change in status with 35 pairs hatching at least 71 young although only three pairs at Fairburn Ings being well below the norm there. The major breeding location, Mickletown Ings, produced 21 young from ten pairs.

V.C. 65 reported seven pairs rearing 13 young at Bolton-on-Swale with a single pair at Jervaulx rearing three young. The highest count in this V.C. being 61 at Bolton-on-Swale on 8th September.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Few pairs bred in V.C. 61; three at Pulfin Bog reared five young; one pair at Tophill Low Res. with one young whilst the two pairs along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas were both unsuccessful. Single pairs bred at four locations in V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 a total of 42 pairs reared 63 young; the main location being Winterset Res. where 11 pairs reared 21 young. In V.C. 64 36 pairs bred successfully, a slight decrease on 1988; 83 young being raised with several pairs having four young. Breeding success was poor in V.C. 65 with five pairs attempting at Bolton-on-Swale but only one young bird seen. One pair raised a single chick at Masham whilst one pair was unsuccessful at Leighton Res.

Very few reported from Bridlington Bay with 37 at Fraisthorpe on 29th January as maximum. In V.C. 61 away from the coast, 27 at Tophill Low Res. was the largest gathering reported. Castle Howard was the only location to record double figures in V.C. 62 with 14 there during March. 51 at Winterset Res. on 16th July being the highest count in V.C. 63 whilst in V.C. 64 very high numbers were recorded at Swillington Ings with 80 on 25th April and 85 on 10th June. 16 at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th June being the largest count in V.C. 65.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

A poor year with single birds at Flamborough on eight days and two on one day in October. At Filey a single bird was reported on six occasions whilst at Spurn this species was reported on only one day. At Hornsea single birds recorded on four days on the sea and on the Mere daily from 5th August to 5th September. Three single birds at Barmston with one at Sunk Island, on the Humber. Inland, one at Tophill Low Res. from 15th July to 4th August. In V.C. 62, only two records, one at Saltwick Nab on 15th February and one in Scarborough South Bay on 14th November.

In V.C. 63; one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th April with another on the same date at Southfield Res. V.C. 64 had one at Swillington Ings from 19th to 28th April with another there from 24th to 28th May visiting nearby Fairburn Ings on the 26th. One at Malham Tarn from 24th July until 26th August. The only record from V.C. 65 being one at Bolton-on-Swale on 24th and 30th December.

A higher than usual proportion of records this year concerned birds in summer plumage.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

One flew north at Spurn on 24th March with one at Flamborough on 19th February; 1st September and 5th November; one at Scarborough on 11th April. Two drifted south with the tide at Filey on 28th October with one present the following day; another there on 11th November with a fourth bird on 27th December. Single birds on the sea at Hornsea on 16th November and on the Mere there from 15th to 18th November and in December from 3rd to 6th; 16th and 17th; 26th and 31st. One on the sea at Holmpton on 11th November. One in Scarborough South Bay on 22nd November with another on 31st December. Two off Whitby on 29th December.

Inland, one at Southfield Res. from 17th to 25th November whilst the bird reported at Fairburn Ings during December 1988 remained there until 13th March. One at Swillington Ings on 24th October and another at Swinsty Res. on 29th. Ardsley Res. recorded single birds on 12th March and 15th April.

Addition to the 1988 Report: One at Southfield Res. on 25th April.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

A good year, with, along the coast, single birds at Flamborough on 8th October (PAL, JCL); at Filey on 4th September (RC); at Hornsea on 17th December with two there on 24th August and 8th November (GRB). Many records at Hornsea Mere with one from 6th to 8th April; 12th April; a pair displaying there from 16th to 18th April (TDC, BP, GRB). One from 11th to 15th May with three on 22nd (GRB). A juvenile from 7th to the 12th August; eight, three of which were juveniles, on the 15th and 16th August with a single bird on 9th October (TDC, GRB). An adult in full summer plumage at Pulfin Bog from 16th to 29th June. At Tophill Low Res. one from 8th to 12th April (CCS); a pair on 2nd and 3rd May (J & KH) with single birds on 1st and 28th to 30th May and then 2nd to 10th and 11th to 14th June (TR). Another on 14th and 16th July (TR). It is probable that some interchange of birds between Hornsea Mere; Pulfin Bog and Tophill Low Res took place.

In V.C. 63 single birds were reported from Pugney's between 30th March and 3rd April (GC); Thrybergh Res. on 7th April (R & DOS); Potteric Carr on 10th (NPW) Catcliffe Flash from 13th to 26th (MGF); Winterset Res. 16th; 17th and 26th April (PS, KD). At Blackmoorfoot Res. from 7th to 11th May (MLD). Two at Thrybergh Res. on 17th April; a pair displaying at Treeton Dyke Res. on 27th April (RP); three at Uttley Res. on 2nd April (RJC) whilst in the Sheffield area at one location a single bird was present on 1st May with three there from 10th to 14th May and a pair at a second location on 19th May. In autumn, single birds were present at Winterset Res. on 2nd September and 15th October (PLM, SD) at Elsecar Res. from 11th September to 4th November and Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th September (MLD).

Two in V.C. 64 at Swillington Res. on 16th April; at Fairburn Ings on 2nd July. Single birds reported from Fairburn on 13th March; 27th March to 8th April (RH, CW); at Staveley on 6th April (MFB, GTF) and Hay-a-Park on 30th (MC, BC). In autumn, one at Staveley on 5th and 6th September; juvenile at Fairburn Ings from 31st August until 10th September and another on 30th.

Bolton-on-Swale was the only location in V.C. 65 to report birds with one on 21st; 27th and 28th April; 29th May; 20th August until 7th September and another from 1st to 19th September.

Addition to the 1988 Report: Three at Southfield Res. on 3rd May with two on 23rd (CF, ASce). One at Willow Garth on 1st August (RK).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

About 700 pairs breeding on the cliffs of the RSPB Reserve at Bempton whilst a few pairs bred on ledges of the Grand Hotel at Scarborough. No reports from other coastal locations. During the early part of the year numbers were not unusual with 1080 off Flamborough on 22nd January; 960 on 23rd April with c400 per hour passing Filey on 2nd April. Heavy passage at Flamborough in August with 2980 on 2nd and 3600 on 27th. The weekend of 8th to 10th September – a period of strong to gale northeasterly winds – saw extremely large counts between Spurn and Flamborough; birds mainly flying north. On

8th 367 at Hornsea; on 9th, 934 at Spurn; 4764 at Hornsea and 8350 at Flamborough; on the 10th, c4000 at Spurn and 15,450 at Flamborough (the second highest count ever) with on the 11th 1940 at Spurn and 8480 at Flamborough. (Hornsea being unwatched). 2040 at Flamborough on 26th November and 1280 there on 30th December.

The effect of the September gale was felt away from the coast with six along the Humber at Sunk Island on 9th and 20 flying west on the 10th although 19 were later seen to return east. Two at Blacktoft on 11th with one on 12th; one northeast over Thorpe Marsh on 9th whilst on the 11th one flew north over Castle Howard and one seen over Leeds.

Other inland records being of single birds at Warmsworth Ings on 26th and 27th May; at Blacktoft on 12th June; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27th July; Fairburn Ings on 13th August with one found at West Bretton on 27th August, this bird being released at Flamborough the following day.

'Blue' phase birds were reported quite frequently from coastal locations particularly Flamborough where a total of 118 were counted during the year with nine on 10th September and 36 on 3rd October.

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*

One flew north at Spurn on 9th September (NAB); the third record for Yorkshire although still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

One at Spurn on 23rd July; at Flamborough on 8th June; 21st July (PAL); 25th August (AG, PAL, MN) and 26th (PAL). Two off Hornsea on 4th August (GRB).

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

The only records were of single birds at Flamborough on 1st (JCL, PAL), 12th (AMA, MN, PJW); 27th (AMA, PAL, PJW, DGH); 28th (AMA, PAL, GAS); 29th August (MN, PJW) and on 10th October (PAL).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

The first of the year were six at Flamborough on 9th July after which birds were reported regularly along the coast until mid October. Highest counts being 98 at Flamborough on 1st August with 123 the following day when 49 flew north at Hornsea and 18 at Filey; 68 at Flamborough on 27th August when 79 passed Filey. In September 135 off Flamborough on 2nd when 80 were off Spurn; 281 at Flamborough on 3rd; 108 there on 8th when 49 were at Hornsea. On the 9th, Spurn reported 121; Hornsea 118 and Flamborough 244 with 42 at Spurn and 178 at Flamborough the following day; 131 at the latter location on 28th with 60 on the 29th and 156 on 30th. Good passage during early October with 157 at Flamborough on 2nd; 176 on the 3rd when 24 passed Hornsea. The highest count of the year was recorded on the 8th with 349 at Flamborough; 72 at Spurn; 60 at Hornsea; 84 at Holmpton and 18 at Scarborough.

During November, three at Hornsea on 22nd with two at Flamborough on 25th whilst in December, three at Flamborough on 8th and single birds there and at Filey on 9th; the last bird of the year being at Flamborough the following day.

One flew up the Humber on 19th August as far as Sunk Island before returning eastwards towards the sea.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

An excellent year for this species with Flamborough reporting their best ever having over 18,000 individuals recorded. Single birds were reported there on 1st and 2nd January whilst Spurn had one on 24th March. From May onwards birds were reported regularly with high counts at Flamborough of 87 on 6th and 139 on 13th. July saw heavy passage at Flamborough with 611 on 2nd; 454 on 13th; 1303 on 14th; 1019 on 15th and 1032 on 16th; Filey had a monthly maximum of 224 on 16th whilst Spurn recorded 137 on the 30th. During August, numbers at Flamborough were generally lower with 730 on 1st; 1648 on 2nd; 389 on 5th; 350 on 25th and 556 on the 28th. 215 reported at Filey on the 2nd with 581

at Hornsea on the 1st and 1251 on the 2nd; Spurn having 82 on 27th as monthly maximum. On 3rd September; 444 flew south and 311 north at Filey with 720 reported at Flamborough. The gale of the 8th to 10th brought, at Flamborough, 1002 on the 8th; 2658 on the 9th (the highest daily count for Yorkshire) and 1107 on the 10th; at Hornsea, 409 on the 8th with 2079 on 9th and 310 the following day. Spurn produced 711 on the 9th and 349 on the 10th. Barmston recorded 101 on the 9th and 140 the next day. In October, 32 were reported from Spurn on the 8th with 25 at Holmpton; 26 at Hornsea; 202 at Flamborough and 12 at Scarborough.

Away from the coast; one east at Sunk Island on 9th September with two on the 10th and one east at Saltend on the 24th.

Birds of the race *P. p. mauretanicus* were reported at Spurn on 3rd September; at Hornsea on 30th September and 20th October; at Flamborough on 1st June; 1st, 26th and 30th July; 1st and 26th August; 27th September; 8th, 9th, 10th and 27th October with two birds on each of the 3rd, 4th and 8th October.

Correction to the 1988 Report: the bird found dying at Sawley was in fact recorded on the 8th September.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Two at both Flamborough and Hornsea on 9th September (PAL, WFC *et al*) whilst on 29th October two flew west during the morning at Sunk Island. On this latter day one was reported over the Humber at Spurn; one some four miles inland near Scarborough (DB) and one at Fairburn Ings (MEW). Single birds were also reported from the coast at Spurn on 4th; 8th; 28th and 30th September; at Hornsea on 8th September and Flamborough on 22nd June and 22nd July (AMA, WFC, PAL). At Flamborough, on 30th July, at least five birds were attracted by tape lures; one being caught, whilst on 11th August, two were attracted with one being caught (AMA, JCL, MN, PJW, JMP).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

A record year. Single birds recorded at Spurn on 2nd and 3rd September and at Flamborough on 29th August and 2nd September. During the gale of 8th to 10th September by far the highest numbers ever seen in Yorkshire were reported. On the 8th; two at Spurn and one at Hornsea (WFC). On the 9th; 24 at Spurn; nine at Grimston (TI); 53 at Hornsea (WFC); one at Barmston (PP); 20 at Flamborough (PAL *et al*); three at Filey (SC, JAP, HJW) and two at Scarborough (TME). On the 10th; 27 at Spurn; two at Withernsea (NWA); four at Hornsea (WRC); two at Barmston (PP); three at Flamborough (PAL). 41 at Spurn on the 11th when one was also reported from Flamborough, with five at Spurn the following day. The effect of this gale was manifest away from the coast with two east along the Humber at Sunk Island on the 8th (RTP, JW) and seven the following day (one of which was apparently all dark) (RTP, HS, JW). One at Hay-a-Park on the 10th (PD).

After this period Spurn reported one on 28th September with two on the 30th whilst in October two were reported on the 8th and one on 28th. One at Hornsea on 8th October (GRB); two at Flamborough on this same day with three on the 28th and one on the 2nd and 29th. Seven at Fraithorpe on 27th (WFC).

Away from the coast; one at Saltend (Hull) on 30th September; one over Keyingham Marsh on 25th (SLJ). One at Worsbrough Res. was taken into care on 3rd September unfortunately dying the following day (KRD). One at Midhope Res. on 8th October (JMT); one at Angler's Lake on 29th October (SD); one at Allerton Bywater (JM) and over the M62 near Castleford (TM) on 3rd September, and one at Ardsley Res. on 28th (DW).

Unidentified storm-petrels were recorded from Spurn on 9th and 28th October; Hornsea on 22nd November with six at Flamborough on 9th September.

Gannet *Sula bassana*

An estimated 1077 pairs bred at the RSPB Reserve at Bempton with about 670 chicks being raised. Large counts, as usual, at Flamborough with 704 on 20th April; 765 on 9th June and 1325 on 24th. Little passage of note here during July but in August 830 on

3rd; 1193 on 6th; 1620 on 12th; 1300 on 19th; 2315 on 27th and 1109 on 30th. During September, 1627 on 3rd; 3220 on 9th; 4050 on 10th with 1675 on 28th and 2594 on the 30th. October saw 1481 on 2nd; 1228 on 3rd and 1200 on 14th thereafter lower numbers with few in November and December.

This pattern, albeit with lower numbers, was reflected along the coast with Spurn reporting less than 100 until August excepting 348 on 30th May and 181 the following day. 300+ recorded there on 27th August; 533 on 9th September with 450 on the 10th and 280 on 8th October. Hornsea reported 274 on 8th September with 1946 on 9th and 382 on the 10th; on 30th 453 were offshore there with 434 on 8th October. Very few recorded at Filey all year obviously relating more to observer coverage than birds.

Many were reported along the Humber particularly as a result of the September gale. At Sunk Island on the 9th 143 flew west with 87 later returning east whilst the following day 355 passed west and 92 then returned eastwards. On this day 20 immatures moved as far west as the Humber Bridge before returning downstream with six doing likewise on the 12th. One at Faxfleet on the 10th with two juveniles flying southwest over Selby on 11th when single juveniles were also reported from Fairburn Ings and Pugney's. On 13th a juvenile was found walking along a road at High Green near Penistone; the bird was uninjured and taken to Loxley Animal Sanctuary. An oiled bird found dead at Rossington on 29th.

Addition to the 1987 Report: At Crow Hill, Mytholmroyd on a September day a dead immature fell out of the sky (per TD).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The only breeding record received was from Gristhorpe near Filey though no actual numbers were reported. High counts along the coast were received from Flamborough and Hornsea; at the former 108 reported on 29th August; 118 on 12th October; 118 on 17th and 102 on 19th. Smaller numbers thereafter but 79 on 4th November with 73 the following day. Birds reported at Hornsea were generally commuting between the sea and the Mere; here 114 were seen flying north on 8th October and 104 in the same direction on 15th November. The Mere roost held 107 on 20th January; 97 on 12th February; 132 on 6th October and 126 on 18th. The highest counts ever for this location occurred during November with 142 on 15th November and 145 the following evening. Numbers at Tophill Low Res. were also very high during the latter weeks of the year with 25 present on 17th November increasing to 49 by the end of that month with further increases in December to 63 on 15th and 61 on 16th.

Reported regularly along the Humber with, at Sunk Island, 17 on 1st April; 21 on 10th September; 15 on 17th and 12 on 28th. 17 in Hull Docks on 18th February whilst further inland, at Blacktoft, birds were recorded in all months with maxima of ten in January; 15 in March; 21 on 21st April after which less than ten birds were reported. Few freshwater localities reported large numbers, those that did being Fairburn Ings with 11 on 19th May and 15 (of which 13 flew southeast) on 9th September. In V.C. 65 both Bolton-on-Swale and Thornton Steward had large numbers with the former having maxima of 27 on 1st January and 35 on 3rd December; Thornton Steward; 14 on 29th January; 12 on 3rd March; 38 on 26th November and 26 on 24th December.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Continental race *P.c.sinensis* were reported from widespread locations with three at Flamborough on 4th and 25th March; four at Hornsea Mere on 12th February and three there on 20th January; 3rd and 11th March. Six at Southfield Res. from 8th to 10th April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

About 16 pairs bred at the RSPB Reserve at Bempton whilst the Flamborough Group reported no change in the population of the headland. Up to 200 were reported regularly at Flamborough during January with maximum of 282 on 21st; peaks in February and March being 215 and 217 respectively. Passage noted from late August with 105 on 26th and 450 on 27th. Peaks in September of 465 on 9th; 418 on 10th and 450 on 30th. High numbers in October with 579 on 12th; 507 on 15th; 506 on 22nd and 553 on 25th. November

peaks being 586 on 4th; 740 on the 11th and 704 on 12th. December numbers low with the exception of 380 from 8th to 10th. Smaller numbers at Filey but maxima of 56 in November and 117 in December, on the 9th, including 90 flying north. At Hornsea, 38 reported on 17th November and 51 on 24th.

Inland, one at Tophill Low Res. on 9th May was the first there for 11 years whilst a single immature remained in the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area from 12th April to 26th June.

In V.C. 63; one at Pugney's on 12th May and one at Southfield Res. on 26th December. V.C. 64 reported single birds at Fairburn Ings on 21st April; Knotford Nook from 14th to 17th September; west over Kirkstall on 27th September and at Lindley Wood Res. on 23rd November.

Correction to the 1988 Report: One found exhausted at Harrogate in September on the 6th unfortunately succumbed on the 11th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

During the summer months one flew from west to east along the Humber at Sunk Island on 3rd June whilst at Fairburn Ings one was present from 6th July to 8th August. All other records were during the winter months concerning single birds. In V.C. 61, at Hornsea Mere on 15th January; 26th February and 1st November; at Bielby Beck on 26th December. In V.C. 63, at Blacktoft on 20th November and 25th December whilst at Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64 one of the birds present at the end of 1988 was again reported on 1st; 15th and 17th January with another there on 29th October; 9th, 21st, 25th, 26th November; 2nd and 20th December. Staveley and Farnham recorded one on 4th November with Hay-a-Park one on 19th and 26th.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One flew south at Spurn on 28th May (BRS) – the second record for the Observatory. An immature at Fairburn Ings on 1st and 2nd April (RS, JJ, JG).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One at Sprotbrough Flash on 25th May (per HP). This record is still under consideration by the various Records Committees.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

One present at Bretton Park for a few hours on 10th May before departing to the west (JBB, MJW, MT).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

An incredible report was received of 30 young and six adults being shot from a total of 16 nests at Wentworth though no proceedings were taken owing to lack of evidence.

Bred in V.C. 61 at Scampston with 22 pairs present and on the Lower Derwent where 15 pairs were reported. In V.C. 62; three pairs at Cockrah Wood (Scarborough); 20 pairs at Old Crow Wood, Crawthorn and ten pairs at least at Sleightholmedale. 22 pairs present at Bretton Park of which 20 laid some 65 eggs with 17 pairs rearing 49 young; three successful pairs in the Sheffield area with one at Kirkhouse Green (Doncaster). Five heronries were counted in V.C. 64; Dacre Banks; North Stainely; Farnley Balance Res.; Dob Park and Askwith; giving a total of 48 nests. Bred at two locations in V.C. 65 though no numbers were reported.

Away from the breeding locations in V.C. 61 only small numbers were reported with six at Sunk Island on 17th and 28th September; a similar count at Spurn on 4th September. In V.C. 62, 16 at Johnson's Marsh, Scarborough on 18th September; V.C. 63 reported 33 at Wath Ings on 26th August and 27 on 8th September; 24 at Sprotbrough Flash on 2nd August; in V.C. 64 up to 20 during the early months at Swillington Ings with a maximum of 29 on the 2nd February; 38 at Gouthwaite Res. on 2nd October with 21 at Fairburn Ings on 16th July and 21 at Lindley Wood Res. on 31st August.

The all white bird was reported in the Potteric Carr area at least until mid May.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Immature birds reported from Wath Ings on 21st May (DMW); Blacktoft Sands on 31st May (AG); Blacktoft Sands on 10th June (AG); Winterset Res. on 17th June (PS, PH, PLM). These records were considered to concern at least three individuals. One at Tophill Low Res. on each of the evenings of 25th to 27th July (TR).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

One at Thorpe Marsh from 24th to 29th May (PSu, AO, DP) moved to Fairburn Ings on the last date (SMu, CW) remaining in the Aire Valley commuting between Fairburn Ings and Leventhorpe Hall until 16th June when it was seen departing to the northwest.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

One flew west along the Humber at Kilnsea on 22nd April (PSr); one circling over Filey and drifting south on 26th April (AAW). A second bird there on the evening on 30th April (TA, IR) may well have been the bird seen flying south over Flamborough and Spurn the following day (PAL, BRS).

A colour-ringed juvenile was present at Denaby Ings from 22nd to 24th September (KAD) also being seen at Wath Ings on the morning of 24th departing southwards (DMW). From the combination of the colour rings it has been established that the bird was ringed as a nestling at Vlieland, Holland, on 12th July.

An immature flew west over Fairburn Ings on 4th October.

Addition to the 1988 Report: One at Horbury Wyke on 22nd April (JRS).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

An improvement in breeding success reported from the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area where five pairs reared 31 young; elsewhere status remained unchanged. In V.C. 61, a total of ten pairs bred. V.C. 62 only had two pairs whilst in V.C. 63 eight pairs bred at five locations rearing 27 young; including eight young at Winterset Res., being the first breeding record there. In V.C. 64; 24 pairs bred at 13 locations with 73 young reared from 107 hatched; five pairs failing to hatch any eggs; the drought conditions being attributable. Four pairs bred at Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, with three of them rearing 18 young; one pair failed at Jervaulx.

The moult flock at Horsea Mere had reached 128 by 20th June increasing to 148 on 1st July; 184 on 18th peaking at 190 on 10th August (the highest ever count at this location) then decreasing to 142 on 16th and 137 on 26th. Fairburn Ings held over 100 during every month excepting November when the peak reported was 97 on 11th. The moulting flock increased from 249 on 24th June to 293 on 5th August (the highest count ever reported in Yorkshire). Nearby Swillington Ings held 61 on 2nd September and 69 on 16th December; 45 in the Rother Valley Country Park on 20th November with 33 at Bolton-on-Swale on 19th May.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Another poor year along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal with monthly maxima of 44 in January; 52 in February and 55 in March; the last bird being recorded on 9th April. Only small numbers were reported during the latter months of the year after the first two on 29th October; 14 on 31st October and 19 on 25th November being the highest counts. Elsewhere in V.C. 61 few were reported with 20 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 26th October and 15 on 10 November. 14 came in off the sea at Spurn on 27th October; ten off the sea at Filey on 17th December. Seven present at Tophill Low Res. and the adjacent area from the end of October to early December then up to nine to the end of the year.

Many records in V.C. 63 with 45 at Newington on 23rd December; 40 at Old Bank End (near Doncaster) on 28th January; 21 north over Thorne Moors on 22nd January, 18 over Catcliffe Flash on 26th March; 17 at Blacktoft on 27th October and 16 northwest over Ingbirchworth on 29th October. Both Wath and Winterset reported birds quite frequently

with the former having a maximum of 15 on 26th October. A further six locations reported one to eight birds on one or more occasions during the latter months of the year.

In V.C. 64 small numbers were reported during the early months excepting for a northward passage on 27th March when 42 were seen over High Batts N.R.; 34 over Hutton Conyers and 24 birds, believed to be this species, at Spofforth. In the latter months; 18 at Fairburn Ings on 29th October; ten at Otley on 28th October and 12 at Chelker Res. on the same day (possibly the same birds?).

At Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, at least 60 passed through during the latter months of the year with six on 15th October then 13 on 27th; 11 on 19th November; 12 on 3rd December and 15 from the 8th until the end of the year.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Good numbers along the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal areas during the early months with monthly maxima of 46 during January; 39 in February and 50 in March with 12 on the 26th being the last. Smaller counts at the end of the year with up to ten in December. A colour-ringed bird here on 24th and 25th November had been ringed as a cygnet the previous year at Jokuldalur, Iceland.

Away from this area few were reported in the eastern half of the county with ten at Filey on 29th October when nine were reported from Spurn (probably the same party). Ten at Tophill Low Res. on 25th and 29th November; nine at Staithes on 16th February; seven at Brandesburton on 25th February and six at Hornsea Mere on 26th November. Occasionally one to four at a further five locations.

In V.C. 63 reported from many locations with 57 at Newington on 24th December; 43 at Blaxton Settling Ponds on 15th January; 20 to 30 in the Wath area during January then 29 until 18th March with the last two on the 31st; 13 there on 5th November; 19 on 15th then 23+ to the end of the year with a maximum of 27 from the 26th to the 28th. Smaller numbers at many locations with herds passing over the area in both spring and autumn; 28 north at Southfield Res. on 1st April; 31 north at Blacktoft on 26th March; c40 over Willow Garth on 6th November.

In V.C. 64 birds were reported from 20 waters during the early months with the Fairburn flock having 71 on 18th January; 71 on 11th February; 80 on 26th February thereafter decreasing to 56 by 19th March; 17 on 2nd April and one from 30th April to the 23rd May. Birds from this flock frequently visiting nearby Birkin. Northerly movement was reported through the area in spring with 43 over Hay-a-Park on 27th March; 55 at Eldwick on 28th; 68 at Chelker Res. on 29th; 46 at Lower Barden Res. on 31st. On 1st April 44 over Swillington Ings and 32 over both Glasshouses and Gouthwaite Res. The first of the autumn were two at Eccup Res.; two at Malham Tarn and one at Fairburn Ings on 9th October; 15 at Fairburn by the 31st October peaking at 81 on 19th December remaining at that number until the end of the year. Smaller numbers at nine other locations with 17 at Swillington Ings on 17th and 26th December.

Only Bolton-on-Swale in V.C. 65 had more than ten birds with 22 on 1st January; 15 on 27th March; 28 on 26th November and 25 on most days during December.

Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

Two at Flamborough on 21st January; one on 12th February; one at Tophill Low Res. on the 4th October and many days between 12th November and 22nd December. One at Wheldrake Ings on 10th March.

Two feral, colour-ringed birds at Flamborough from 25th to 30th April were also reported at Hornsea Mere during late April and early May.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Few in the eastern half of the county during the early months with 15 to 17 in the Filey/Flamborough area during early January. 13 at Filey in mid February with 15 at Flamborough on the 18th and 19th; 26 at Filey on 8th March and 17 at Flamborough on the 12th. 325 at Blacktoft on 17th January whilst inland in V.C. 63 skeins were reported from Sheffield with 250 on 6th January; 120 over Southfield Res. on 17th January; 100 at

Anston on 2nd March; 200 northwest at Carlton on 3rd. In V.C. 64; 300 over Knotford Nook on 1st January with 250 over Fairburn on 8th February.

Slightly more reported during the autumn and early winter months with, in V.C. 61, 65 at Filey on 14th October; 86 there the following day when 79 passed Flamborough; 25 were reported at Tophill Low Res. on 29th October with 55 on 5th November; 77 on 9th; 58 on 12th and 42 on 14th.

In V.C. 63, during October, 100 flew north over Pontefract on the 15th with 150 east there on 22nd; 180 east at Southfield Res. on 24th and 130 over Airedale on 15th. 450 in the Blacktoft area on 5th (no doubt birds from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge). In the Sheffield area 1990 were reported passing over during early November and 1082 on the 18th and 19th December. c800 flew east over Doncaster on 18th December. Small numbers in V.C. 65 with 20 at Masham on 10th January; 24 at Leighton Res. on 4th February and 44 at Leyburn on 24th October. Skeins of *grey geese* reported were 800+ over Leeds on 22nd January; 1000+ east over Leeds on 8th February and 300–400 over Harrogate on 19th April.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

In V.C. 61, 11 at Flamborough on 10th February with 13 on the 11th and nine on 12th; 17 at Tunstall on 11th when 23 were reported near Stone Creek remaining to the 12th; 17 at Hornsea Mere on 15th whilst 23 geese seen distantly near Stone Creek on 26th March were probably of this species. Seven at Flamborough on 29th October being seen flying south the same day at Spurn. Five at Hornsea Mere on 10th November. One the Lower Derwent, one on 14th January, one on 14th February with two the following day.

15 south at Scarborough on 18th February being the only record from V.C. 62. In V.C. 63, three south at Winterset Res. on 16th April; one at Wath on 29th October whilst on the same date two were seen flying west at Winterset Res. and Blackmoorfoot Res.

In V.C. 64, one at Eccup Res. on 10th January and at Hay-a-Park on 15th and 22nd, on 12th February and 12th March. One at Swillington Ings from 17th to 22nd July. Seven over Staveley on 29th October when four were at Chelker Res., one of which was carrying an orange neck ring that had been attached to the bird at the Wexford Slobs. Eight at Great Langton, in V.C. 65, on 29th and 30th October.

Two birds (adult and immature) of the race *A.a.flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose) were at Farnham on 8th January with an immature at Fairburn Ings on 20th February. An adult at Leyburn from 7th to 14th January and at Thornton Steward on the 18th.

Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser*

Continues to spread and increase as a breeding bird. In V.C. 61 bred at Hornsea Mere; Kelk; Brandesburton; Rise; Catwick; Burton Constable; Tophill Low Res.; Skipwith Common; Scampston and the Lower Derwent. In V.C. 62 at Castle Howard; Hutton Rudby and Seamer Mere (Scarborough); in V.C. 63 at Potteric Carr; Scathingwell (near Castleford) and Thorpe Marsh. In V.C. 64, at Staveley, near High Batts N.R.: Ripley Castle and Farnley Balance Res. (near Leeds) and in V.C. 65 at Bolton-on-Swale and Low Ellington.

Large flocks were reported from Hornsea Mere with 340 on 11th February and 453 on 5th August; 112 at Primrose Valley on 14th November; 90 near Driffield on 13th October; 200–300 at Tophill Low Res. during the latter months with 359 on 26th November; 100+ on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during the period October to December; 250 on the Lower Derwent in November with 263 at Castle Howard in November; 170 on the Humber at Blacktoft on 10th September. 93 at Otley G.P. on 1st January with a late peak of 286 there on 24th December. 352 at Staveley during September; 257 at Nosterfield on 1st August; 200 at Hay-a-Park during mid October. At Bolton-on-Swale, 452 on 28th March with 403 on 26th November. 209 at Great Langton on 26th November with 350 on 25th at Yafforth; 300 at Masham on 20th October and 100 flying west over Feldon on 27th February.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

A pair nested at Ripley Castle (no further details) and a pair consisting of a white phased bird and a hybrid reared three young on Dallow Moor. Birds were seen frequently in the Harrogate area with 17 on the 27th and 29th August at Staveley with smaller numbers at other locations particularly Knaresborough G.P.. Four at Gouthwaite Res. on 16th April. Away from this area nine white phased birds flew over Tophill Low Res. on 1st October.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Widespread in V.C. 61 with 11 pairs rearing 45 young at Hornsea Mere; one pair with young at Scampston and along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal. Attempted to breed at Tophill Low Res. and may also have done so at Rise; Burton Constable and East Park (Hull) though no reports were received from these last three locations. 400 were present on the Lower Derwent during January with 370 in February. 224 at Hornsea Mere in August with 220 during November.

In V.C. 62 bred at Castle Howard; Staindale Lake; Hills Green; Wykeham G.P., Osmotherly and Charm Park. The largest concentrations in this V.C. being at Castle Howard with up to 213 in September and 185 in November.

Breeding reported from new locations in V.C. 63 though the reported total of 29 pairs rearing 84 young at 14 locations is considered to be well below the actual true number. The largest gatherings being of up to 380 at Bretton Park in early February; 430 at Pugney's on 28th October; 300 south at Harthill Res. on 9th October where six were also found dead under power lines during that month. 300 at Bretton Park in November. Over 100 at Winterset Res. frequently during the latter months of the year and 100+ at the Rother Valley C.P. in December.

No change in the status was reported from V.C. 64 though very poor breeding success at Fairburn Ings with only 27 young fledged out of 70 hatched. The largest counts were 670 at Fairburn Ings on 9th June and 660 there on 12th August; at Eccup Res., 564 on 17th September with 600+ on 5th December. 500+ at Staveley during August. Concentrations reported in V.C. 65 were 183 at Leyburn on 14th January with 110 at Leighton on 18th and 225 at Thornton Steward on 23rd.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Bred at Bretton Park where one pair reared three young. The feral flock at Hornsea Mere were contained up to 116 birds during January with the flock returning from its summer home at Flamingoland in October having increased to 123 (on 30th October) and a further slight increase to 127 on 5th November. 53 flew inland at Grimston on 4th March. Three occasionally at Tophill Low Res. in September and October, two of which carried dull pink rings. Nine at Bretton Park on 15th November was the maximum there with these birds frequently visiting Pugney's. One to two frequently in the Barnsley; Wakefield and Doncaster areas. The Lower Derwent valley reported up to six during January and February; seven in March; five on 8th April then one occasionally in late May and early June. One at Castle Howard on 13 dates during the period late June to November with two on 9th and 23rd December.

In V.C. 64, up to six at seven locations in the Harrogate area with four at four locations near Leeds. Occasionally at Fairburn Ings with three there on 13th May.

Up to four at Leyburn, in V.C. 65, during the period January to March with probably the same birds at Thornton Steward during the same months. Three at Masham in September and October. One occasionally at Bolton-on-Swale; Brompton and Nosterfield.

A hybrid Snow Goose x Barnacle Goose was reported at Castle Howard on 15th October.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

The flock at Spurn was reported daily until 3rd April with up to 42 in early January then increasing with up to 400 later in the month; between 126 and 444 during February (the 444 on 16th constitutes the largest party ever reported in Yorkshire). From 91 to 375 in March until the 19th after which numbers declined to 20 by the 31st. Almost daily until the

end of April then in May; 21 on 8th; one to six from the 14th to 19th with 13 on the 15th. One on 25th June. The first returning birds were five on 10th September; daily from 1st October with numbers varying between three and 105 during that month; up to 240 in November and 275 during December.

Elsewhere along the coast, mainly small numbers with the exception on 27th October when 70 flew south at Flamborough and 44 at Filey though ten flew north at Scarborough. On the following day, 24 passed Filey with 100 at Flamborough; 62 at Barmston; 147 at Holmpton and 288 at Spurn. 25 south at Holmpton on the 29th.

Small numbers on the Upper Humber with ten in the Broomfleet/Faxfleet area during November and December. Ten at Sunk Island on 28th October.

Inland, 14 flew south over Staintondale on 21st January whilst in V.C. 63, two at Redmires Res. on 7th October; one at Wath on 29th; two at Worsbrough on 8th December and one at Pugney's on 31st. Single birds were reported in V.C. 64 at Farnham from 10th to 12th February and at Gouthwaite Res. from 5th to 12th November whilst one flew over Lindley Wood Res. on 29th October.

Pale breasted birds, *B.b.hrota* were reported from Spurn on 15 days during the year with five on 19th February; three on 7th November and four on 29th October. At Flamborough, nine on 8th October; four on 29th and five on 16th November.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

A pair at Castle Howard on 29th January and again from 26th March to 9th April.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One north at Filey on 15th April (SC, PJD) with four south there on 18th August (PRB), these four also being seen at Flamborough; the first record ever at that location (AMA, JCL, PAL).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

No breeding records received from the Humber but bred in the vicinity of the Ouse/Trent confluence. Three pairs bred in the Eske/Pulfin Bog area (V.C. 61) with four, perhaps five, pairs at Tophill Low Res.. An estimated 26 pairs along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas. No breeding reported from V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 (apart from the Ouse/Trent record above), bred in the Doncaster area; at Holmewood (one pair); Candy Farm (five pairs) and Burghy Banks (one pair); attempted to breed at a further three locations. In V.C. 64, bred at Masham (two pairs); Swillington Ings (one pair) and Fairburn Ings (one pair). In V.C. 65, two pairs at Nosterfield.

Counts along the Humber would indicate no change in the status with a maximum on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge of 1370 in November whilst at Sunk Island monthly maxima were 472 on 7th January; 806 on 5th February; 64 on 18th March; 123 on 1st April; 214 on 29th May; 511 on 16th June; 1039 on 22nd July; 2406 on 5th August; 391 on 3rd September; 65 on 28th October; 326 on 12th November and 112 on 31st December. Numbers on the Humber at Spurn were small with 252 in late autumn as the maximum. Easterly movement was noted there with 1348 being counted during July, maxima being 348 on 11th and 334 on 26th. Southerly passage along the coast was noted on the 26th October when 40 passed Filey; 50 off Flamborough; 114 at Holmpton and 94 at Spurn.

Inland, small numbers passing east at Blacktoft in July but to the west in late August and September with 196 on 27th August and 113 on 9th September. 31 west over Southfield Res. on 11th August; 19 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th July with 15 there on 22nd November. 16 south at Winterset Res. on 24th June; 17 west over Castleford the same day. One to eight reported from many locations during all months.

In V.C. 64 occasional records of small numbers from many locations with larger counts at Fairburn Ings and Swillington Ings – the former having 18 on 30th March; 25 on 25th April and 73 to the west in small parties on 29th October whilst at the latter location; 38 south on 9th September and 22 west on 29th October. 12 at Masham on 25th February.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Two males at Otley G.P. on 1st April. Published with the escape proviso.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

No reports of breeding received but five pairs summered on the Lower Derwent Ings and one pair present at Fairburn Ings. Monthly winter maxima on the Derwent Ings were 8000 in January; 5320 in February; 4500 in March; 2000 in April; 100 in September; 280 in October with 3000 in November and 2500 in December. A maximum of 3000 was reported from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in December. Elsewhere 1150 at Bolton-on-Swale on 21st January with 815 on 8th December; 800 in January at Tophill Low Res.; 780 in February but smaller than usual numbers during the latter months when 272 in December was the peak. 660 at Hornsea Mere on 12th January; 418 on 7th March and 670 on 25th November. Five locations in V.C. 63 had larger than usual numbers with 241 at Winterset Res. on 3rd February and 150 on 2nd December; 160 at Wath on 10th January and 143 on 28th December; 165 at Pugney's on 12th February; 180 in the Rother Valley C.P. in February with up to 177 in December. Blacktoft had 265 in February with 405 on 20th November and up to 400 in December. Small numbers generally in V.C. 64 though Swillington Ings reported up to 200 in February; 400+ on 25th November and 149 on 30th December whilst at nearby Fairburn Ings there were 178 on 25th November. Apart from Bolton-on-Swale, V.C. 65 had 358 at Thornton Steward on 24th February and 245 at Leyburn on the 25th.

Coastal passage was noted in October with, on the 4th, 443 off Flamborough and 182 at Hornsea. On the 28th, 234 at Flamborough; 111 at Barmston; 251 at Holmpton and 289 at Spurn whilst at Sunk Island, on the Humber, 193 flew west on this date.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

A poor breeding season along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area compared with recent years; only one successful pair and five more probably breeding. Two, possibly three, pairs bred in the Pulfen Bog – Aike area along the River Hull; three pairs at Tophill Low Res. with one pair at Scampston. In V.C. 63, single pairs at Wath Ings and Potteric Carr whilst a pair bred 'near Sheffield'. One pair at Blacktoft were unsuccessful. A good breeding season in V.C. 64 with one pair at Swillington Ings; two pairs at Mickletown Ings and seven pairs at Fairburn Ings.

Hornsea Mere and the Aire valley recorded the highest numbers with a maximum of 188 at the former location on 25th November whilst in the latter area; at Fairburn Ings 42 were present on 8th February; 98 on 16th September increasing to 170 on 21st October, 209 on 11th November then down to 184 on 11th December. Nearby Swillington Ings had 56 in February with 174 on 18th November and 127 in December.

Smaller numbers were reported from several locations with 46 during September and 50 in October at Tophill Low Res.; 38 at Potteric Carr on 27th April; 31 at Blacktoft on 10th January with 32 on 1st February and 35 on 24th November; 28 at Scampston on 15th October and 23 along the Lower Derwent in March.

Small numbers occasionally along the coast with up to five at Flamborough frequently during February; four in early March and four again on 27th October. Four south off Holmpton on 28th October being seen also passing south at Spurn.

In V.C. 62, the only record was of one at Castle Howard on 22nd August whilst in V.C. 65 all records were from Bolton-on-Swale with up to four in January; four in July; three in September; six on 18th October and five on 8th December.

Teal *Anas crecca*

No proven breeding in V.C. 61 though 15 to 20 pairs were present along the Lower Derwent but no young were reported. Breeding suspected at Hornsea Mere, Tophill Low Res. and Skipwith Common. In V.C. 63 proven breeding reported from two locations near Huddersfield with probable breeding at a further three; two pairs at Candy Farm (near Doncaster) with breeding at Blacktoft but no young reported. Breeding reported from the higher ground of V.C. 64 with 32 young at Gouthwaite Res. on 26th May (a low

number) whilst pairs summered at Fairburn Ings and Swillington Ings. No comments received from V.C. 65.

In V.C. 61 the highest counts were from the Lower Derwent with monthly maxima of 2000 in January; 3300 in February; 1800 in March and 750 during April. During the latter months numbers had increased to 500 in September; 700 in October; 1000 in November and 1500 during December. 900 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in September being the highest count there whilst Tophill Low Res. had 589 in September as their highest count. Hornsea Mere reported 368 during October with 522 in December; Saltend, 500 on 28th January with 400 during most of November but 535 on 26th then 550 on 22nd December.

Several locations in V.C. 63 held large numbers with 640 at Blacktoft on 17th September and 1050 on 24th October; 500 at Wath Ings on 12th October with 477 there on 26th November and 410 on 10th December. 700 at Potteric Carr on 7th January; 360+ at Thorpe Marsh on 22nd December.

V.C. 64 reported 400 at Swillington Ings on 1st January; 384 on 16th November and up to 242 during December. Fairburn Ings, 212 on 5th February; 300 on 14th October increasing to 400 on 19th; up to 350 during November and 388 on 17th December. Gouthwaite Res. recorded up to 390 in January and August with 440 in September and October peaking at 610 on 14th November then up to 400 during December. Smaller numbers in V.C. 65 with 150 at Bolton-on-Swale on 24th January and 165 on Masham on 14th.

Coastal passage was reported from all the well watched locations. At Filey; 187 north and 167 south on 20th August with 226 north on 26th; at Flamborough 170 on 26th August, 228 on 8th September and 147 on the 28th. Off Hornsea 98 on 8th September; 170 on 9th; 226 on 10th with 170 on 22nd and, in November, 288 on 15th. 200 south at Holmpton on 28th October whilst at Spurn, 358 south on 20th August and 296 on 28th October.

Westerly passage along the Humber was frequently reported from Sunk Island with 112 on 19th August; 432 the following day; 191 on 26th; in September; 131 on 3rd; 204 on 9th with 241 on 10th. 120 on 29th October.

A male of the North American race (Green-winged Teal) *A.c.carolinensis* was present at Blacktoft from 27th February to 3rd March (AG *et al.*).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Comments received indicate no change in breeding status. Large numbers were reported from many locations with over 1000 at the following; Hornsea Mere, 1060 in July and 1050 in December; Tophill Low Res., 1650 in January; 1400 in February; 1334 in September and 1880 in November; Humber Wildfowl Refuge with 2000 in September; the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal (with relatively low counts), 2000 in January; 3000 in February; 2250 in March; 1200 during November; 1500 in December. Blacktoft, in V.C. 63, had 1000 in August and 1400 on 5th September; Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, reported 1225 on 22nd January; 2025 on 16th September with 1270 on 26th October.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

A female with young reported at Pulfin Bog on 6th July (DBC); this being only the second definite breeding record in Yorkshire during the last 23 years.

380 were reported on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, a very high number, on 11th October with 100 on 23rd October. Rather more than usual at Tophill Low Res. with 20 from 17th to 20th September increasing to 68 on 23rd and then 48 the following day. Up to 31 at Hornsea Mere during this month whilst along the Lower Derwent, up to 39 were present in January; 30 during February; 32 in March; 26 in April and up to 14 in December.

In V.C. 63, Blacktoft had 40 on 11th September; 76 on 22nd October and 36 on 7th November. Blackmoorfoot Res. had 34 on 21st October whilst 24 were reported from Wath Ings on 26th August. 26 west over Southfield Res. on 8th August and 13 on the 13th. 11 west at Redmires Res. on 10th September; 12 northwest over Wintersett Res. on 29th August and 18 in the same direction on 4th October.

One to nine at several locations in V.C. 64 though 36 northwest at Fairburn Ings on 7th September; 38 west there on 11th with 21 west on 18th; nearby Swillington Ings reporting 28 west on 11th.

Bolton-on-Swale had 11 on 17th February with 14 on 28th August increasing to 20 the following day then 22 during early September and up to 13 during the rest of that month. 11 on 10th October.

Westerly movement was reported along the Humber and Ouse with 13 off Sunk Island on 19th August; 35 on 26th whilst at Blacktoft 96 were recorded on 29th September. Southerly passage along the coast noted at many locations with 18 off Hornsea on 28th August; 21 off Spurn on 19th September and 13 off Flamborough on 28th October; 37 came in from the east off the sea at Spurn on 21st September.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A relatively good year along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal with breeding occurring though the number of pairs is uncertain. At least three males, possibly five, and two females being present and four fledged young seen in August. The first to arrive at this location were a pair on 27th April with the last, a female, on 16th October.

Elsewhere in V.C. 61, one at Flamborough on 8th April; four on 11th May; two on 1st July and one on 10th September. A pair at Filey Dams on 4th May with three north off Hornsea on 7th July and one on 11th August. A pair at Pulfin Bog on 29th April with a male there to 1st May. A pair at Barmston on 16th May. A quiet year at Tophill Low Res. with one on 21st May; two from 22nd to 25th and one on 28th. In August, one on 11th/12th and 19th with another on 21st September. One at Spurn on 18th May.

The only records in V.C. 62 were of pairs at Scalby Beck on 6th May and at Castle Howard on 15th.

In V.C. 63, pairs were at Pugney's on 13th April; Thrybergh on 17th April and Wintersett Res. on 5th June. Single males in the Rother Valley C.P. on 18th May and Wintersett Res. on 11th July whilst at Blacktoft one on 2nd and 3rd May; one to two from 13th to 25th May and an immature on 22nd July. Two birds at a former breeding site near Sheffield on 6th August with a female and immature there on 8th and a male on 11th September. Two at Thorpe Marsh on 15th June, one there on 25th August with one at Old Denaby on 2nd September; at Potteric Carr from 4th to 6th July and at Sprotbrough Flash on 24th and 27th August. At Wath Ings, many records with a pair on four days between the 17th and 24th April; two males on 22nd and 23rd May; three males on 24th decreasing to one by 31st. One or two males plus a female on 9th; 13th and 17th June. In July; three on 16th with one on a further six days. One to two frequently during August and September. One throughout October with two on the 2nd and 10th with finally a female on 4th and 5th November.

In V.C. 64 the first was a male at Staveley on 7th April after which a pair at Swillington Ings on 4th May with three the following day. Thereafter all records came from this location and Fairburn Ings with much interchange between the two. At least four males and a female were involved, the last being reported on 4th June. Five flew east at Fairburn Ings on 26th June with a pair there on 29th July and up to four during August. A male at Swillington Ings on 22nd August; one at Fairburn Ings on 1st and 3rd September with two on the 2nd.

The only records from V.C. 65 were a male at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th May and a first year female from 26th September until 14th October.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

Single bird at Kilnsea on 29th October (RCH, KR) is still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rareties Committee.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

A good breeding season was reported from the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas where an incomplete census revealed a minimum of 63 pairs. Two pairs bred at Pulfin Bog whilst two pairs possibly bred at Skipwith Common. Three pairs at Blacktoft; at least three

pairs at Wath Ings; reported as breeding at both Denaby Ings and Old Denaby. In V.C. 64 one pair bred at both Swillington Ings and Mickletown Ings with, in V.C. 65, one pair at Bolton-on-Swale.

The largest numbers reported in V.C. 61 were at Hornsea Mere with maxima of 64 in September and 85 in October; at Tophill Low Res. with up to 69 present in March; 137 in September; 92 in October and 158 in November. The Lower Derwent Ings held up to 60 during January with 72 in February and 80 in March; an isolated peak of 110 on 4th October with ten or less during the remaining period to the end of the year. Peaks at Blacktoft were 58 on 22nd October and 57 on 1st November; 42 at Wath Ings during October with up to 32 in September and 37 in late December. Sprotbrough Flash held 45 on 11th February.

In V.C. 64, Fairburn Ings held up to 42 during the early months then in autumn higher counts with 124 on 20th August increasing to 282 on 16th September thereafter decreasing to 196 to 22nd October; 145 on 1st November and 70 by 17th December. Swillington Ings was the only other location to report large numbers with up to 100 in February; 107 in September peaking at 164 on 10th October thence 109 during November and 84 in December. 38 at Copgrove on 7th October was an unusually high count for that location.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Single female or eclipse bird at Hornsea Mere from 9th to 12th August (RSPB). In V.C. 63, a female/immature at Thrybergh Banks on 21st August (WD) with two birds in similar plumage at Catcliffe Flash on 6th September (RJC, MGF) and a male at Potteric Carr from 19th December until the end of the year. (NPW). A female at Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, on 19th and 20th July (PH) with four juveniles at the same location on 22nd September (JGI, CW). A female at Malham Tarn on 26th July (BS).

In V.C. 65, the female at Thornton Steward on 31st December 1988 remained there until 10th March with another (or the same?) reported there on 25th October; 31st October and 1st December. Again, what may have been this bird was present at Leighton Res. on 30th December.

A Red-crested Pochard X Pochard hybrid was reported at Fairburn Ings from 22nd April until 2nd May.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Breeding was reported from V.C. 61 from Welton Water (one pair, two young); Pulfen Bog (at least two pairs, five young); Tophill Low Res. (three pairs though few young); Rise Park (one pair, five young); Burton Constable (one pair, four young); Lower Derwent (12 pairs but only two broods). In V.C. 63, from Blacktoft (ten pairs, eight of which hatched 46 young with about 18 fledging) and in V.C. 64 at Fairburn Ings (seven pairs, 26 young hatched of which 11 fledged); Mickletown Ings (five pairs, 19 young) and Swillington Ings (one pair, four young).

Low numbers again in the east with the highest counts being from Hornsea Mere, where a peak of 587 was reported in September, and from Tophill Low Res. with 356 during November. The Lower Derwent reported very few with 80 during February (little water and mild weather). Some good counts reported from V.C. 63 with 150 in the Rother Valley C.P. in January and 128 during February. 127 at Winterset Res. on 1st January and 145 at Thrybergh in March. During the latter months Winterset Res. reported 350 on 29th October; 428 on 26th November and 347 on 30th December. 205 reported at Southfield Res. on 9th October. Fairburn Ings held the highest numbers in V.C. 64 with 471 on 21st January; 810 on 6th February then 255 on 4th March with lower counts during the latter months; 253 on 7th October being the peak. Swillington Ings held 300 on 1st January; 400 on 12th February; 248 (all but four being adult males) on 24th June; up to 230 in November and 317 on 30th December. 200 at Malham Tarn in February being the peak there. Bolton-on-Swale was the location to report significant numbers in V.C. 65 with 232 on 21st January; 210 on 19th November and 215 on 30th December.

Coastal passage frequently reported, usually involving small numbers but 93 passed Filey on 28th October when 144 flew south off Flamborough; 107 off Barmston; 123 at Holmpton and 61 at Spurn. On this same date 109 flew west at Blacktoft.

178 on the River Hull near Saltend on 22nd December.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

An adult male at Pugney's on 24th April (JCI.) – accepted by BBRC.

An adult male (the same) at Fairburn Ings from 26th April to 26th May (JG *et al*) was joined by a second male on 3rd May (JP), the former bird moving to Swillington Ings where it was reported from 27th May until 19th June. These records still being considered by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

An adult male at Winterset Res. on 17th and 21st September (PS *et al*) was no doubt the bird reported from nearby Pugney's on 27th (PLM). A male at Blacktoft on 25th June (AG).

An adult male at Swillington Ings on 18th February; 12th March; 26th July and from 23rd to 31st December. This bird was also reported from Swillington Park on 16th March (AJR, SPS, DJB, PRM *et al*).

A Ferruginous Duck X Pochard hybrid was at Bolton-on-Swale from 18th to 23rd October and again on 19th November and 8th December.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Very few bred in V.C. 61 away from the Lower Derwent. Four pairs at Tophill Low Res. plus two pairs near Pulfin Bog; at least one pair on the Driffild Canal; one pair at Burstwick and three pairs at Skipwith Common. At least 40 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area.

Breeding in V.C. 63 was confirmed on 19 waters with at least 37 pairs being reported; 12 pairs raised 68 young at four of those locations with no results being reported for the others. In V.C. 64 a good breeding season was reported, with 15 broods totalling 124 young, of which 36 fledged, at Fairburn Ings, whilst at a further 12 locations some 24 broods were reported having a total of 150 young. 19 broods were reported from Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65 with 116 young being counted; single broods were noted at Masham and Jervaulx of seven and eight respectively.

Highest counts in V.C. 61 were at Tophill Low Res. with up to 700 during October and at Hornsea Mere with 531 in September. 150 were on the Lower Derwent during April. V.C. 63 generally recorded large numbers with Winterset Res. having 373 on 1st January; 390 on 23rd September; 405 on 5th November and 283 on 17th December. Nearby Pugney's held 261 on 22nd January and 239 on 31st December whilst Southfield Res.; Thrybergh Res.; Ingbirchworth Res.; Scout Dyke Res.; Catcliffe Flash and the Rother Valley C.P. all held over 100 occasionally.

The largest counts in V.C. 64 were reported from the Aire valley with 374 at Fairburn Ings on 29th January; 412 there on 5th February with 323 on 18th March and 307 on 17th December; Swillington Ings recorded 300 on 1st January; 314 in November and 331 on 29th December whilst Mickletown Ings had 203 on 14th February. Both Hay-a-Park and Malham Tarn occasionally held over 100.

Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, had 202 on 1st August and 26th November.

Generally numbers were down on 1988.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

An extremely poor year along the coast. Six at Flamborough on 2nd September with four there on 28th; four north at Hornsea on 15th November with three at Barmston on 20th March and three north at Hornsea on 15th January. Otherwise one to two occasionally at those same locations together with Filey Brigg and Spurn. 28 flying west along the Humber at Saltend on 1st October was therefore an unusual record.

Inland, in V.C. 61, one at Hornsea Mere in January, April and August with two in May and three in November. One at Wheldrake Ings on 1st January. In V.C. 62 one at Seamer G.P. near Scarborough on 20th April and 28th May. V.C. 63 recorded single birds at many locations during the early months with several locations having small parties. Four at Pugney's in January; three at Southfield Res. from 26th January to 11th February; three at Winterset Res. on 2nd March. One at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 4th to 13th and again on the 20th June; one at Winterset Res. on 23rd. During the latter months of the year single birds were reported on one day only from six locations excepting one at Winterset Res. from 6th to 17th October and one to two birds at Southfield Res. on 11 days between 7th August and 16th October.

One to two birds at nine locations in V.C. 64 during the early months but three at Fairburn Ings on 7th February. Nearby Swillington Ings had up to six birds during the period 22nd January to 3rd May (involving seven individuals – three females; four males). One to two birds at six locations between 5th August and 29th November.

In V.C. 65, nine were at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th February with one there on 21st January; three on 20th October and one on 22nd. One at Leighton Res. on 18th February.

Eider *Somateria molissima*

Small numbers along the coast during the early months with the exception of 72 on the Humber at Spurn on 22nd January and 55 on 9th May.

Few were reported in October though 37 at Spurn on 12th and 29 at Flamborough on 28th and 44 there the following day. Very heavy passage, mainly northerly, during mid November with 43 at Filey on 15th when 188 were reported from Flamborough, 21 from Barmston and 219 from Hornsea (this being the highest for Hornsea). On the 16th, 428 off Flamborough; 49 at Barmston; 57 at Hornsea; 183 at Aldbrough and 55 at Spurn. 848 passed Flamborough on the 17th (the highest daily count ever for Yorkshire) with 63 off Filey; 25 at Barmston and 95 off Hornsea. Counts for the 18th were, 351 at Flamborough; 143 at Filey (their highest ever count); 58 at Barmston and 45 at Spurn whilst on the 19th 109 were reported from Flamborough when 88 also passed Filey. This coastal movement was also noted along the Humber at Sunk Island when 31 flew west on the 18th with 29 returning eastwards on the 19th.

North of Filey very few were reported with six off Scarborough on 22nd November and eight at Long Nab on 7th December.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Few along the coast with three at Spurn on 24th March; four at Flamborough on 22nd January; two there on 4th and 5th March; three on 28th October and two on 10th December. Two at Aldbrough on 16th November with two off Hornsea on 22nd when two were also reported at Scarborough. Two in Filey Bay on four days during the early months. Single birds occasionally at Staithes; Whitby; Holmpton and Barmston.

Away from the coast; two at Hornsea Mere between 19th February and 2nd May. Two at Tophill Low Res. remained from 1988 until 7th January with one until 23rd.

One at Southfield Res. on 11th February whilst at Thrybergh Res. one remained from last year until 4th April being present at nearby Thrybergh Banks until 10th May.

The 1988 'invasion' into V.C. 64 continued into 1989 with four at Eccup Res. until 17th February; three until 8th April with two to 16th and an immature male to 25th May. Elsewhere, one at Knotford Nook on many days to 1st May; one at Lindley Wood Res. on 16 days to 12th April with two there on 1st January. One at Reva Res. on 12th and 19th January and again on 9th April. One at Fairburn Ings from 5th to 8th January and at Hay-a-Park on 28th. One at Fairburn Ings on 26th February with a male there from 25th March to 11th May. One at Ripon Race Course on 7th and 20th April with another at Ardsley Res. on 17th.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

An average year along the coast; at Spurn over 100 on several days with 168 on 29th May; 135 on 1st July; 240 on 5th and 157 on 8th. Up to 136 on four days in early September.

At Flamborough, 150 on 26th February; 110 on 18th June with 339 on 1st July (when good numbers were reported at several other locations). 330 on 19th July; 194 on 22nd; 104 on 23rd; 150 on 3rd August; 118 on 10th September with, in October, 109 on 2nd; 135 on 4th; 139 on 27th. 204 on 15th November. Monthly maxima at Filey (no dates) were 250 in January; 344 in March and 110 in August. Further south off Hornsea, 120 on 1st July; 116 on 9th September and 476 on 15th November; 290 at Grimston on 1st July on which date 278 were reported from Sunk Island, on the Humber, including one party of 180 flying in from the east. 160 at Hunmanby Gap on 19th December. 227 north at Barmston on 10th September with 160 north off Scarborough on 16th November.

Westerly passage was recorded along the Humber at Sunk Island during early July with 45 on 7th; 42 the following day and 69 on the 9th. 22 flew east there on 22nd whilst on 10th September 105 passed west.

Inland, at Hornsea Mere, two on 3rd April; ten on 25th May with one on 30th October. Two at Tophill Low Res. from 9th to 12th July with one at Wheldrake Ings on 14th and 15th April.

Few in V.C. 63 with no westerly passage reported from Blacktoft. Two at Redmires Res. from 12th to 20th August otherwise only single birds reported from Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th March and 10th August; Redmires Res. on 14th June; Southfield Res. on 8th August; Ringstone Edge Res. on 19th July; Thrybergh Res. on 18th September; Winterset Res. on 11th August, 11th September and 29th October and at Wentworth Lakes on 1st and 2nd November.

Considered to have been a poor year for this species in V.C. 64 with only a total of seven records from four locations consisting of three or less birds excepting four at Swillington Ings on 29th April and six there on 28th October.

One at Bolton-on-Swale from 16th April to 12th May being the only record from V.C. 65.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

14 north at Hornsea on 15th November with five north there on 8th October; four north at Fraisthorpe on 27th October whilst up to four were at Filey on three days during November. Four north at Scarborough on 16th November. Otherwise one to three along the coast at all the regular watchpoints.

Inland, 15 flew into Pugney's from the west on 25th April before moving to Swillington Ings later that day. Six were present at the latter location early the following morning and, after departing, were also reported at Fairburn Ings before returning to Pugney's where they remained until 9th May when only five were noted.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

A male and female flying south at Kilnsea on 4th May (TMC *et al*) were also reported passing south off Spurn where they constituted the second record for the Observatory.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Higher numbers at Hornsea Mere in spring than last year with maxima of 110 on 28th January, 324 on 12th March increasing to 356 on 27th. Numbers there had built up in late autumn to 165 by 15th November then 212 the following day. 88 on 3rd April was the highest count at Tophill Low Res. Only moderate numbers during the early months along the Lower Derwent with maxima in January of 18; 18 also in February with 40 during March and 32 in early April. Only single birds there during the latter months of the year.

Few in V.C. 62 but good numbers in V.C. 63, at Winterset Res. where 113 on 28th and 29th January constituted the highest count ever at that location; up to 100 were present during February with 75 on 5th March decreasing to 55 by the 29th then 38 on 7th April and 11 on 24th. The first returning bird appeared on 5th October with 50 present by 8th November and 62 on 10th December. Nearby Pugney's had 37 on 2nd January with 12 on 6th March and the last on 25th April. The first of the autumn arrived on 7th October, numbers then increasing to 11 by 30th November and 24 at the end of the year. Up to eight at many locations during the early months with 15 in the Rother Valley C.P. on

24th February. Numbers lower during the latter months but nine at Southfield Res. on 15th November. 'Summer' birds at Whiteholme Res. on 22nd June and 28th August; at Thrybergh Res. on 7th June and Dale Dyke Res. on 4th August.

Fairburn Ings held the largest numbers in V.C. 64 with 42 on 29th January; 49 on 11th February; 101 on 13th March; 32 on 9th April. 31 had returned by 16th November increasing to 36 on 19th December. Other locations to hold flocks were Eccup Res. with 31 on 26th March and 28 on 24th December; at Knotford Nook with 30 on 1st January; 31 on 4th February and 30 on 5th March; at Hay-a-Park with up to 29 during January and 36 in November. Peak count at Gouthwaite Res. was 34 in early April whilst 18 were at Malham Tarn on 18th November. Single birds at Malham Tarn on 16th July and at Gouthwaite Res. on 18th July.

Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, had a peak of 55 on 5th March decreasing to ten by 9th April; remaining up to 15th. Ten had returned by 15th October increasing to 39 on 18th November with a similar count on 30th December. 20 at Thornton Steward on 3rd February.

Coastal passage was restricted mainly to October/November. On 28th October, ten south at Filey; 11 at Flamborough; 24 at both Barmston and Holmpton with 27 off Spurn. 29 south at Filey on 15th November when 32 were reported off Flamborough and 109 off Hornsea. The following day 19 flew north at Scarborough whilst 21 were reported off Hornsea. 57 on the estuary at Saltend on 22nd December.

Hooded Merganser *Mergus cucullatus*

A male frequented the lake in Peasholme Park, Scarborough from 24th September to 23rd December (AJW *et al.*). As with the earlier records of this species in Yorkshire, (near Leeds, 1843 and an undated one shot near Cottingwith), the origin of this bird is dubious; one having been lost from a collection in Nottinghamshire at this time.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

In V.C. 61 four at Brandesburton (one male) on 5th March. Single birds – all females/immatures – at Hornsea Mere on 31st March and 1st April at Hempholme on 28th February, 11th May and 18th November; on the Lower Derwent from 18th February to 10th April and at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd, 24th/25th January, 29th October, 19th, 25th and 26th November.

In V.C. 63, a female at Blacktoft first seen in 1988 remained until 19th March; at Winterset Res., on 21st January (also being seen at Walton Hall) and from 18th December to the end of the year; at Ardsley Res. on 18th November.

Knotford Nook, in V.C. 64, had birds present until 13th March – all *redheads* excepting one immature male – normally two or three birds but five from 14th February to 10th March with four on 12th. Birds from this location were also reported from Lindley Wood Res. on 19th January with three there on 15th February; one at Eccup Res. on 6th March. Elsewhere, one at Fairburn Ings from 1st to 22nd January; one at Hay-a-Park on 1st and 12th February; at Staveley on 5th February; at Swillington Ings on 22nd January (Fairburn bird?) and Mickletown Ings on 10th February.

During the latter months one west over Fairburn Ings on 29th October; two females there from 4th to 17th December and one on 27th. One at Lindley Wood Res. on 19th October. Two *redheads* at Eccup Res. on 17th November moving to Knotford Nook by the 18th being joined by a third bird on 16th December, all three remaining into 1990.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Bred at Redmires Res. where a pair had a brood of seven on 13th June.

Along the coast one to four at most watchpoints with nine at Flamborough on 28th October on which date 23 flew south at Barmston and 19 south at Spurn. The following day seven flew south at Holmpton with eight at Flamborough on 30th. Five west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 8th October.

In V.C. 63, apart from Redmires Res., one to two were infrequently reported from eight locations though nine flew east at Windhill, Bradford on 25th September.

A similar situation in V.C. 64 but three at Fairburn Ings on 15th November and four at Swillington Ings on 29th October. One at Swillington Ings on 1st July was unseasonal.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Reported as breeding near the confluence of the Rivers Rye and Dove with records from Butterwick and Nunnington Hall. Reports indicate that a pair raised ten young whilst a female with seven young was seen at Nunnington Hall; possibly more than one pair? Breeding was also confirmed in both 1987 and 1988 and constituted the first breeding occurrence from the York Orn. Club recording area.

In V.C. 64 bred on the Wharfe at Barden Bridge; The Strid and at Ben Rhydding. Four broods totalling 41 young on the Ure but no details from the Ribble; Nidd or Laver. In V.C. 65, no apparent change in status with broods varying between five and 21 on the Swale and Tees.

Continues to be scarce in V.C. 61 with eight at Spurn on 28th October; seven at Weighton Lock on 17th January and 2nd February; seven at Broomfleet on 3rd March. The Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal held up to 29 in January; 41 in February; 20 in March and 17 on 1st May.

Castle Howard was the only location in V.C. 62 holding any number with 68 on 2nd February; 158 on 4th and then only 38 the following day. Ten there on 18th November increasing to 15 on 25th thence 96 on 9th December and 62 on 23rd.

Stated to be apparently increasing in numbers in V.C. 63 with high counts of 25 at Wath Ings between 6th and 12th February; 17 at Brookfoot Lake, near Brighouse, on 29th March. 20 at Thornton Moor Res. on 20th March; 15 at Southfield Res. on 13th January; 15 on the River Trent at Blacktoft on 26th February. Regular at Angler's Lake with 27 on 28th January; 31 on 1st February; 27 on 12th and up to 17 to the end of the month; up to nine there during November and December. 21 called briefly at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27th August.

Very high counts at Eccup Res. in V.C. 64, with over 100 on nine days in January peaking at 177 on 29th and 20 still being present on 1st May. Up to 85 during January at Hay-a-Park with peaks of 148 in February and 73 in March. 95 west over Staveley on an undated February day. Counts generally lower during the latter months excepting 230 at Hay-a-park (the highest count ever reported in Yorkshire) on 29th December. 65 at Eccup Res. on 29th/30th December with 54 there on 26th November and 50 at Lindley Wood Res. on 28th December.

Good numbers in V.C. 65 at Leighton Res. with 95 on 8th January; 57 on 12th March and 53 on 18th April. During the latter months 25 on 22nd October; 75 on 11th December and 24 on 16th. Small numbers at Bolton-on-Swale but 40 there on 28th August.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Continues to spread and increase. Proven breeding occurred in V.C. 63 at Old Denaby; Thrybergh Banks; Worsbrough Res; Edderthorpe; Newmillerdam; Potteric Carr; Wombwell Ings and near Ingbirchworth. In V.C. 64 only proven to have bred at Mickletown Ings. Birds were present at many other suitable locations during the summer months.

Slowly spreading eastwards in V.C. 61 with monthly maxima at Tophill Low Res. during the latter months of 14 in September; 31 in October; 38 in November and 30 in December. Maxima in V.C. 63 were ten at Pugney's on 19th November; 20 at Worsbrough Res. during November and December and 12 at Wath/Wombwell on 15th June. The main concentration in V.C. 64 being along the Aire valley with up to 14 at Mickletown Ings in July though 26 present on the 17th. Swillington Ings had a build-up to 21 on 28th September; 33 on 22nd October; 38 on 25th November and 35 on 2nd December. Fairburn Ings recorded 16 on 22nd October and 24 on 15th December. Elsewhere all other waters held less than ten excepting 11 at Eccup Res. on 16th December.

Bolton-on-Swale was the only location in V.C. 65 to record birds, with one or two occasionally during September and October.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis aviporus*

A single bird reported on two occasions in mid summer at one location. Single birds in the east of the county during September; at Kilnsea, flying south on 13th September also being seen flying southeast at Spurn later; at Bewholme on the 19th and another at Spurn on the 22nd.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One to the north over Swillington Ings on 2nd May (LAR, AJR) is still under consideration by the BBRC.

Addition to the 1986 Report: One at Saltend on 26th August (SLJ).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Single birds reported from Goxhill on 16th January (EWC); at Seaton on 28th March (B & JOW) and at Wheldrake Ings on 25th May (WM).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

An immature south at Flamborough on 7th May (MN, PJW) was undoubtedly the same bird seen flying west over Spurn on the 8th (IC, CM). An immature south at Atwick on 8th October (WRC).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

In V.C. 61 the first reported was at Filey on 8th April after which single birds were reported during the last week of the month at Hornsea Mere; Spurn; Wheldrake Ings; Sunk Island and Pulfin Bog. Two were present at Spurn on the 30th. Birds were widespread during May with two at Spurn on 26th otherwise only one bird involved at other locations. Flamborough reported a total of six birds with Filey (two); Barmston (one); Hornsea Mere (four); Low Cotter (one); Spurn (seven); Pulfin Bog (one); Haverfield Ponds (one); Sunk Island (one); Tophill Low Res. (three) and the Lower Derwent (four). In June, two at Pulfin Bog, one at Scampston, three at Spurn, one at Tophill Low Res. and seven along the Lower Derwent. Less recorded during the autumn with nowhere reporting other than single birds; Spurn having nine; Filey one; Hornsea Mere three; Kilnsea one; Sunk Island one; Tophill Low Res. three; Pulfin Bog one; Brinby one and Wheldrake two.

The only record from V.C. 62 was a *cream crown* near Picton on 28th May.

In V.C. 63 the majority of the birds were reported from Blacktoft with 13 individuals in spring between 22nd April and 23rd June whilst 15 were reported in autumn from 4th July to 29th September. Most of the spring birds being females with the only long staying male being an immature from 29th May to 11th June. Elsewhere in this V.C. single birds were reported from Deer Hill on 29th April; Hallam Moors from 13th to 16th May; Winterset Res. 20th May; Wath, 4th June and 7th September; Winscar 15th June; Langsett Moor 16th June and both Thorne Moors and Redmires Res. on 19th August.

In V.C. 64 an immature male near Harrogate from April to June. An adult male at Bishop Wood on 7th May; two females at Fairburn Ings on 20th May, one of which was present the following day. One at Morton Moor on 2nd July; Fairburn Ings on 20th August and Gouthwaite Res. on 2nd/3rd and 5th September.

No records from V.C. 65.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

The only roosts in the county being at Blacktoft and Broomhead Moor. The former having three birds (one male) present during the early months; four from 4th March until 6th April (two males). A *ringtail* to 1st May with a male on 30th April. During the latter months a male from 9th September and a ringtail from 27th. Four from 28th October (two males) with five from late November (with three males on 22nd) peaking at six on 8th December. Broomhead Moor having up to three birds present from January to March and two from October to early December.

In V.C. 61, numbers have decreased in recent years. Single birds being reported during the periods January to April and late September to December from Spurn; Sunk Island;

Hornsea; Filey; Flamborough; Kilnsea; Grimston; Lower Derwent and Tophill Low Res. One outwith this period was reported at Hornsea Mere on 15th August.

Single birds in V.C. 62 during the same periods at Scarborough; Scalby; Whitby and Seamer.

Away from Blacktoft in V.C. 63, single birds were reported from six locations during the early months and four locations at the end of the year.

V.C. 64 had one, occasionally two birds, at eight locations to 25th April and from September to the end of the year one or two again from eight locations. On 4th June a *ringtail* seen near Stump Cross Caverns was also reported near Malham Tarn and was possibly the same bird seen at Scar house on the 8th.

Few in V.C. 65 with single *ringtails* at Redmires on 26th May; Costerdale on 4th May; Arkengarthdale on 29th August and Leighton Res. on 11th October.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A female/immature at Flamborough on 28th May (PAL); female south at Blacktoft on 30th May (AG); an adult male to the west over the Little Don valley on 18th June (MCW) and a male in the Atwick/Bewholme area on 7th September (WFC).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Information concerning breeding is vague; 21 or 22 sites in the south though not all necessarily in Yorkshire are said to have produced only two successful pairs which raised seven young. At least four pairs bred elsewhere with varying success. Records in these areas and adjacent locations being quite widespread. Reported quite frequently along the Lower Derwent whilst migratory birds were recorded along the coast at Flamborough on 4th March (PAL) and 1st April (DGH). Female at Hornsea Mere on 20th April (GRB) whilst another drifting south over Atwick on 4th September was being mobbed by a Hobby (WFC).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

With the exception of the northern portion of the York Orn. Club recording area all areas report either a continued increase or as in part of V.C. 64 'the most common raptor'. A 'significant' increase in the Sheffield area compared with survey results from 1975-80.

Coastal passage noted at Spurn with six on 12th September and at Flamborough where eight were present on 8th April and six on both 16th September and 4th October.

Seven at Fairburn Ings on 6th May and 17th September.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Bred near Brandsby; the first occasion in the York area. Also bred at one Pennine location with the possibility of a second pair nearby.

Away from these locations, three at Leighton Res. on 7th January; two there on 11th October with one present during the period January to March; one on 4th May and again from early September to the end of the year. One or two in Arkengarthdale during the winter with two frequently at Clapgate during the same period. Single birds at ten locations in V.C. 64 during the early months with a similar situation during the latter months though three or four in the Gouthwaite area and five at Scar House on 20th September and 27th December.

Single birds during the winter months in V.C. 63 at six locations. Outwith these periods one at Wilsic on 5th May; Winterset Res. on 12th June and near Rotherham on 26th August. Single birds in V.C. 62 at Troutdale on 3rd January; Wykeham Park on 13th September; Blakey Ridge on 3rd November and Scalby on 12th November.

Reported in V.C. 61 from Spurn on 14th May, 18th August and from 20th to 23rd. One at Flamborough on 25th February; Hornsea Mere on 15th April; 13th and 14th May.

Unidentified buzzards at Fairburn Ings on 27th May whilst two were seen going to roost near Bewholme on 6th September (CRMC).

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

One at Tophill Low Res. on 11th November (TR) constituted the first definite record for that location.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

A good year. Two at Fairburn Ings on 9th April and two in the Winterset area from 10th to 13th May. All other records concerned single birds with the first at Skipwith Common on 1st April thence Swillington Ings on 8th; Scarborough on 10th; Gilling Lake, Wath and Fairburn Ings on 18th; Scarborough on 20th; High Batts N.R. on 22nd. In May at Blacktoft on 1st; Bretton Park and near Langsett on 2nd; Winterset Res. on 6th; Flamborough on the 7th and 8th also being seen at Filey on the latter date. On the 9th birds at Swillington Ings and Staveley; on the 10th at Hutton Conyers; Pugney's on the 11th; Wath on 12th whilst on 13th birds were reported from Spurn; Hornsea Mere and Pugney's. At Tophill Low Res., Winscar, Blacktoft, Langsett and Winterset Res. on 14th and again at Winterset the following day. On 16th one over Gledhow, Leeds; at Fairburn Ings on 20th and 26th; Ingleby Incline on the 21st and Flamborough on 28th.

In June one was reported from Spurn on 2nd with one at Winterset Res. on 21st whilst the only July record was one at Bolton-on-Swale on 3rd.

Few were reported during the autumn with one at Tophill Low Res. on 20th August and at Spurn on 23rd. In September at Gouthwaite Res. on 16th; Spurn on 20th; South Leeds Golf Course on 26th and at Blacktoft on 30th.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Status would apparently be unchanged though, as considered common in many areas, would also appear to be under-recorded. Passage along the coast noticeable particularly in autumn with 16 at Flamborough on 20th August; ten on 19th when 20 moved south at Spurn. 20 at Flamborough on 23rd with 84 south at Spurn. 18 at Flamborough on 4th October with 15 on 7th. 15 at Spurn on 30th. Ten west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 27th September. 14 at Fairburn Ings on 9th May with 11 moving west during the forenoon.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

A first summer female on Thorne Moors on 25th May (TMM, CA, ARF) was seen again on the 29th (LD, DP). An adult male at Flamborough on 28th (PAL) with a first summer male there the same day (MN). A female seen at Kilnsea on 29th (NOM, MJS, MDS) was seen flying south over the Humber at Spurn that same day (RHC, JPM).

A second summer male seen briefly at Filey on 3rd June (PJD, CGH) was rejected by the BBRC.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

V.C. 63 reported 'to be doing well' in the Bradford area; a 'considerable number' of successful pairs in the Sheffield area (though not all necessarily in Yorkshire). Few comments from V.C. 64 though verbal reports would indicate little if any change in status. No specific data available from V.C. 65. Present in one area of the North York Moors in the breeding season.

Quite frequent in Holderness during the winter months; records usually concerning only one bird though two occasionally at Flamborough; Spurn; Filey and Sunk Island with three in the Filey area on 20th August. Occasional records from the coast in July. Fewer records from V.C. 62; one found dead at Osgodby on 31st August had had one of its legs splinted. Well recorded in the lowland areas of V.C. 63 being more numerous in the latter months than the early months of the year.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Becoming increasingly common with possible breeding occurring in the south of the county. Birds were reported widely from V.C.s 61: 63 and 64 invariably singly though two birds were present on two occasions near Doncaster and one occasion each at Spurn; Naburn

and Fairburn Ings. The first bird was reported on 29th April near Otley with the last on 23rd October at Spurn.

Addition to the 1988 Report: A single male was observed on many occasions at Wheldrake Ings being joined in August by three juveniles indicating probable breeding nearby though the location was unknown.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Continues to increase as a breeding bird though details from some areas are a little sketchy. One pair in North Yorkshire; in V.C. 63, bred at Rishworth, laying three eggs but all failed (RSPB, wardened site); at least two other pairs present in this V.C., one laying eggs but outcome unknown. In V.C. 64 'bred as usual in the Dales'.

Reported from 11 locations in V.C. 61 during the winter months excepting two records from Spurn and one from Filey in August. All records were of single birds apart from two at Flamborough on 4th November. Few records from V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 stated as 'surprisingly few' considering the increase in breeding numbers. Increase in lowland records from V.C. 64 continues with 25 records alone from Fairburn Ings though two individuals seen on several days in September and late December were carrying jesses. Three at Scar House Res. on 23rd October being the most seen together. Few records in V.C. 65, mainly from the vicinity of Leighton Res..

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

In V.C. 65 birds on the high ground were badly affected by disease with widespread mortality and thus little shooting. A similar situation was reported from the Harrogate area of V.C. 64 whilst in V.C. 63 large-scale infection by internal parasitic worms in late May and July resulted in widespread deaths. Elsewhere in V.C. 64 populations were also apparently well down on the previous two years. Over 1000, in snow, on Langsett Moor on 25th February otherwise much lower numbers reported from V.C. 63 also. No comments received from the North Yorks Moors of V.C. 62.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Recorded in V.C. 65 with three males at a lek at Washton on 30th April; two males and five females at Feldon on 27th February with two birds on Richmond Outmoor on 2nd March.

An unsubstantiated record of a male near Goathland, V.C. 62, on 16th November.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Status clouded by rearing and releasing in some areas though still considered to be decreasing in the Blacktoft area. Many areas reported coveys of up to 20 with higher counts of up to 40 at Thrybergh during September; 35 in the Atwick area throughout the winter months; 34 at Edderthorpe on 11th January with seven broods totalling 53 there on 30th August. 29 at Bishop Monkton; 28 at Wath; 27 on Barlow Common and 26 near Tophill.

Addition to the 1987 Report: 76 in six coveys on Thorne Moors on 15th January.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Comments received varied, 'presumably a good breeding season' (Flamborough); 'if anything a slight increase' (V.C. 64). The Sheffield area showed a considerable decrease in tetrad counts carried out this year compared with similar surveys during 1975-1980. 1989 was apparently a particularly bad year in this area with numbers in 23 tetrads being only a quarter of those reported in 1988.

Several locations reported coveys of up to 25 with occasional higher counts; 41 at Hutton clay pits (V.C. 62) on 26th December and 80 at Baildon Moor on 5th November. 34 at Edderthorpe during the winter with 27 at Spurn on 17th October.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

An exceptional year. Definite breeding records were few but singing males were reported from many widespread locations. The breakdown follows though with not all locations being reported by name some duplication may be unavoidable. York area; two pairs bred, at Whenby and Strensall with possible breeding at 17 locations. V.C. 61; bred at Bempton with possible breeding at four locations. V.C. 62; possible breeding at one location. V.C. 63, possible breeding at 12 locations. V.C. 64, bred at Lodge Moor with possible breeding at 17 locations.

The first of the year being reported from Whenby on 20th April with the last at Wath Ings on 20th September.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

One landed on the sea at Filey on 29th October, swimming for some two minutes before disappearing from sight. Status unchanged.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

Again reported from Whitcliffe Wood near Richmond. One near Strines on 16th March.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Breeding occurred, with young being seen, at Blacktoft Sands; at least three pairs and probably five being involved. One pair bred at Tophill Low Res.; one pair at Old Denaby and one pair along the Lower Derwent. Probably bred at Hornsea Mere; near Hornsea Potteries and Potteric Carr.

Quite widespread during the winter months with up to ten at Blacktoft; up to seven at Carlton Marsh during January and February with six there from late October to the end of the year. Five at Winterset Res; nine at Fairburn Ings; seven at Tophill Low Res; five at Dowley Gap (Bingley); four at Pulfin Bog; five on the Lower Derwent with three at both Carlton Marsh and Strensall Common. One to two birds at a further 35 locations.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

Three different individuals at Tophill Low Res. between 27th August and 20th September whilst a bird on 28th August at a different location at this site may well have been a fourth individual. One at Carlton Marsh on 30th July; one at Edderthorpe from 19th to 26th October whilst one was ringed at Burstwick on 21st August.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One calling at Wistow Lordship from 11th June to the end of the month with two juveniles seen within one mile of this location on 26th and 28th July. Considered to have bred in the vicinity.

One at Strensall Common on 21st June with one flushed at Mickletown Ings on 18th September. One at Spurn on 10th; 11th and 12th September.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Status unchanged, 40 pairs breeding at Sprotbrough Flash being the highest concentration reported. Outwith the breeding season, 152 at Wath/Wombwell Ings on 28th January with 100+ during February. 80 at High Royd on 12th February; 83 at Melbourne on 28th August and 75 at Blacktoft on 12th November.

Coot *Fulcia atra*

Continues to expand its range in V.C. 63 especially onto waters along the moorland edges. Elsewhere status would appear to be unchanged. Largest concentrations were; in V.C. 61, from Hornsea Mere with 793 during August; 1065 in September; 450 along the Lower Derwent during February. In V.C. 63, 764 at Winterset Res. on 17th September with 1109 on 15th October, 1295 on 18th November and, on 17th December, 1312 being the highest counts for that location. Nearby Pugney's had 470 on 17th September and 450 at the end of October. Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, held 1200 during January with 1227 on

4th February; 936 on 16th September increasing to 1275 by 14th October before decreasing to 595 by mid-November then increasing again to 917 in mid-December. 550 at Malham Tarn on 11th October whilst 519 were present at Knotford Nook on 28th. The only location in V.C. 65 to hold large numbers was Bolton-on-Swale where 608 were present on 8th January with 806 on 14th September and 676 on 8th December.

Crane *Grus grus*

One to the west over Haverah Park on 14th October (DG) also seen flying west over Scargill Res. the following day (RG) and at John o'Gaunts Res. on the 18th (MMB).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Again a pair laid eggs at Spurn but as in 1988 with no success. One pair reared three young at Hessele whilst another pair bred (outcome unknown) at North Ferriby tip. Nine pairs were present along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal with some young being reared at Naburn for the first time in many years. In V.C. 63, one pair bred successfully at both Blaxton Settling Ponds and at Blacktoft with a second unsuccessful pair at the latter. Breeding status in V.C. 64 was considered to be slightly upward whilst no comments were received from V.C. 65.

Maxima on the Humber at Spurn during the winter months were; 2000 on 17th January; 3000 on both 16th and 26th February; 2500 on 18th March; 3000 on 25th October; 3000 on 4th November with 1800 on 5th and 17th December. High counts outwith these months being 1000 on 1st and 1200 on 2nd April; 1300 on 16th August with between 1150 and 1700 throughout September with 2200 on 14th and 22nd.

Southerly passage was noted along the coast in August. On 5th, 156 passed Filey with 237 at Flamborough; 525 at Filey on 6th when 994 were recorded at Flamborough (being the highest daily count for that location). 110 at Flamborough on the 10th; 837 at Spurn on 11th with 144 off Hornsea. At Flamborough, 217 on 25th, 93 on 26th and 163 on 28th. This coastal passage was reflected along the estuary at Sunk Island on the 5th when 109 flew west and at Blacktoft with 135 west on the same day and 133 west on 25th.

Small numbers were reported on passage in V.C. 63 whilst in spring in V.C.s 64 and 65, 46 were at Nosterfield on 27th March and 26 at Knotford Nook on 4th April; 91 at Leyburn on 20th and 23rd March. 70 at Masham on 15th March; 61 at Thornton Steward on 27th February with 46 at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th March. Only small numbers were reported from these locations during the autumn months.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

In V.C. 61 single birds at Spurn on 16th February and 11th August, and east at Sunk Island on 6th August. At Blacktoft, in V.C. 63, two present from 17th to 20th April, three adults from 21st July to 16th August; five (two adults and three immatures) on the 19th and 20th with two adults from the 23rd to 27th August.

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedipnemos*

One on Black Moor on 19th April (TD: S & DMP).

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

One flew in from the south at Pugney's on 17th April departing northwards after a brief stay of only 20 minutes (J. Hamilton).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

In V.C. 61 the only successful breeding occurred at Tophill Low Res. with one pair raising two young. Pairs were also present at Pulfin Bog (three); Riccall; Pocklington and North Duffield Carrs. In V.C. 62 three, possibly four, pairs bred in the Wykeham area whilst in V.C. 63, 25 pairs were reported breeding at 17 locations of which 16 were successful; three failed; no further details of the other six. At least 15 pairs reared 32 young in V.C. 64, the breakdown being; Fairburn Ings, five pairs, three successful with four young; Staveley, three pairs but only one chick; Gouthwaite Res., three pairs, one

successful with four young; West Tanfield, one pair, two young; Farnham, one pair failed; Knotford Nook, one pair, one chick; Pool Paper Mills, one pair, four young; Otley G.P., two pairs, four young and Swillington Ings, three or four pairs, 12 young. One pair reared two young at Masham, in V.C. 65.

The first bird of the year was reported at Knotford Nook on 17th March with birds on the 18th at York Waterworks; Rother Valley C.P.; Wombwell Ings; Blacktoft and Angler's Lake (Wintersett) with two. Birds were quite widespread by the end of the month with six at Wombwell on 28th. Largest counts reported during the year were 23 at Wath on 2nd July; 22 at Blacktoft on 20th July with 17 there on 16th August; 16 at Leventhorpe Hall Pond on 2nd July; 13 at Aldwarke S.F. on 18th July and 12 at Fairburn Ings on 12th June and on several days in July. Birds had left most locations by mid September but one at Blacktoft on 2nd October and one at Tophill Low Res. on 31st October (PWI) – this being the latest ever reported in Yorkshire.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Breeding reported from Spurn, no numbers or success being recorded, and from Ferriby where four pairs were present though again no further details. In V.C. 63, bred at Thorne Colliery, one pair with two young; at Blaxton Settling Ponds, four pairs; Potteric Carr, Tudworth and Burghy Bank each with one pair. In V.C. 64 at Farnham with two pairs present but no young seen in early May though on 29th June four pairs were present one of which had two young. One pair at Gouthwaite Res., failed; two pairs rearing four young at Swillington Ings. In V.C. 65, one pair reared three young at Nosterfield and one pair with two young at Bolton-on-Swale.

Along the coast numbers were normal with maximum at Spurn of 149 on 20th August. The Humber estuary had 149 at Sunk Island on 20th May with 122 on 26th and 141 on 28th; autumn maximum there being 104 on 2nd September. 161 on the former Fish Dock in Hull on 21st August with 100 on 14th September; 150 on 3rd October and 200 on the 6th.

Passage along the coast light with 99 south on the 17th August and 89 on 24th.

At Blacktoft, in V.C. 63, 58 were present on 11th May with 60 on both 24th May and 5th June; 38 on 21st July and 52 on 20th August. Elsewhere in this V.C.; 36 at Wath on 24th August; 36 at Wintersett on the same date whilst 26 were at Lock Lane, Castleford, on the 19th.

Widespread in V.C. 64 particularly during the autumn with 18 at Gouthwaite on 20th August; 26 at Fairburn on 19th with 40 on 25th and 30 the following day. Few comments received concerning the race *C.h.tundrae*; though some of the birds at Blacktoft in June were considered to belong to this race.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Birds were present at a site in Upper Nidderdale between 29th April and 20th May peaking at 32. Four near Sledmere on 2nd May. At least ten in Rosedale on 1st May with four there on 4th and 6th May. Four on Burbage Moor on 6th May increasing to 12 on the 14th with four still present on the 20th. Three at Flamborough on 2nd June.

The only autumn record being of two flying south at Filey on 17th August.

Addition to the 1988 Report: Up to 16 in spring in Upper Nidderdale (same location as the 1989 birds).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Breeding status considered to be unchanged.

During the early months the only large flocks along the estuary were 1020 at Stone Creek on 2nd January with 1220 on the 8th and 3200 on 14th, Inland, good counts were reported from the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas with 3000 at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd January; 3000 there on 3rd February whilst the lower ings held a total of 4620 on 21st February; 3800 on 3rd March and 1050 on 25th. 1300 at North Duffield Carrs on 11th March and 1000 at Copmanthorpe on 8th January. Several large flocks in V.C. 63 during these early months with over 1000 in the Rother Valley C.P. throughout January and

February peaking at 3500 on 20th February (the highest count ever in the Sheffield area); 1000+ in the Wath Area during February and March; up to 1500 in Pontefract Park during January. 1300 near Bawtry on 29th March. Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, held 3000 on 31st January; 4th and 13th February whilst Haverah Park had 1000 on 2nd April. In V.C. 65; 1875 at Bolton-on-Swale on 8th January with 2000 at Nosterfield on 12th February.

Large flocks in the latter months were reported in V.C. 61 from Atwick with 1500 on 2nd November; 3000 at Paull/Saltend on 22nd December; 1200 at Tophill Low Res. in early September whilst the Humber Wildfowl Refuge held up to 5000 during September; 3500 during October; 4000 in November and 4100 in December. Blacktoft, in V.C. 63, had 2500 on 15th August; 1000 during September; 5000 on 27th October; 2500 on 3rd November and 1200 during December. 1000 in Pontefract Park in November. V.C. 64 had few large counts during this period; 1000 to 1500 at Harrogate during December whilst 1000+ were at Killinghall on 28th/29th November.

Addition to the 1988 Report: Up to 10,000 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during January.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Maxima at Spurn during the winter months were 31 on 10th February; 28 on 11th March; 51 on 17th October; 70 on 3rd November and 40 on 17th December. Up to 80 there during mid August. Southerly passage very light with 24 on 20th August being the highest count. Few elsewhere along the coast with up to 30 at Flamborough in January and a similar number at Filey during February. On the estuary, 316 were counted at Sunk Island on 8th January decreasing to 155 on 11th February and 60 on 25th March then increasing to 193 on 22nd April and 405 on 13th May with 34 still present on 3rd June. 39 had returned by 22nd July increasing to 104 by 18th August; 129 on 2nd September; 121 on 29th October; 170 on 25th November increasing to 369 by the end of the year. 210 at Stone Creek on 5th May.

In V.C. 63, Blacktoft had 12 on 16th September with ten flying west there on the 11th and six moving in the same direction on 1st November. Four flew north at Winterset on 27th October whilst at Southfield Res. six flew west on the 15th September.

Most of the records in V.C. 64 came from the Aire valley, invariably single birds though occasionally two at Fairburn Ings. Three were reported over Ilkley Moor on 7th January. On 24th September, an unusually large party, 24, were present at Swillington Ings (this is apparently the largest number ever reported away from the coast or estuary).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

A total of 245 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent and Pocklington canal being commented upon as 'an apparently successful breeding season'. Several pairs bred on the high 'prairie-like' fields of the Wolds to the west of Beverley. V.C. 64 reported that early breeders fared well though later ones suffered owing to hard ground. As usual many large flocks were reported during both winters with up to 11,500 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in November. Wheldrake Ings had 3000 on 3rd and 13th January with 4500 on 23rd. The Lower Derwent Ings carried 4200 on 15 January and 4300 on 21st February. Elsewhere in V.C. 61; 2000 at Tophill Low Res. on 17th September and Sunk Island, 2450 on 7th January with 2174 on 19th November.

In V.C. 63, 3100 at Blacktoft on 17th November whilst a further five locations had 1000+ birds on one or more occasions. Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, had 5000 on 4th February with 2500 on both the 25th February and 4th March; 3000 were present at the same location from 10th to 15th December. 5000 at East Keswick on 22nd January; 2500 at Hampsthwaite on the same day whilst 2000 were near Bramham on 4th February. In V.C. 65, 3000+ at Nosterfield on 11th February with 2500 there the following day; 5000 at Bolton-on-Swale on 7th February. Southerly coastal passage was noted at Holmpton on 29th October with 622 when at Spurn 1716 were recorded.

Knot *Caladris canutus*

Maxima at Spurn during the winter months were: 5000 on 8th January; 4000+ on 5th February; 635 on 28th March; 520 on 31st October; 8000 on 25th November and 2700 on 4th December. Along the Humber, at Sunk Island, 737 were present on 28th January and 1275 on 11th February whilst during the latter months 265 were present on 14th October with 603 on 25th November and 424 on 31st December.

Coastal passage was light with 108 south at Filey on 22nd July; 227 at Flamborough and 382 south at Spurn on 29th. 125 south at Holmpton on 28th October when 468 passed Spurn.

Away from the coast, in V.C. 61, single birds were reported from both Tophill Low Res. and North Duffield Carrs. Blacktoft, in V.C. 63, had two from 23rd to 26th May but eight on 25th and two again on 6th/7th June. Occasionally noted there during the autumn on westerly passage. Two at Winterset on 26th August with one at each of the following locations; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th August; Wombwell Ings on 27th August; Thornton Moor Res. on 6th October; Southfield Res. on 8th September and Ardsley on the 1st; 10th and 29th October.

Single birds were reported in V.C. 64 from Fairburn Ings on 9th and 13th May; Swillington Ings on 28th July; 1st, 2nd and 15th September. Single birds in V.C. 65 at Masham on 27th March and at Leyburn on the 30th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Average, or below average, numbers along the coast, with, in the Scarborough area, 45 at Burniston during early February and up to 50 at South Beach during January. Monthly maxima at Filey being 48 in January; 100 in February; 72 in March and 31 in April. 17 were present during October with 69 in November and up to 75 during December. 59 reported near Primrose Valley on 21st December. At Fraisthorpe/Barmston, 100 were counted on 9th April with 40 on the 20th May and 80 at that location on 23rd November. Peak counts at Spurn were 52 on 28th March with between 48 and 116 during mid May. In early autumn numbers built up to 55 by the end of July; up to 70 during the first half of August but 150 on 16th thereafter lowish counts until mid October excepting 53 on 17th September. 70 present on 16th October with 120 the following day and 77 on 24th.

Coastal passage generally light; 53 south at Barmston on 28th October whilst at Spurn, 156 passed south on 26th July with 153 on 29th. 77 south there on 17th August.

Along the estuary; 11 west at Sunk Island on 6th May with ten present there on 4th October.

The only records away from the coast in V.C. 61 were single birds at Pulfin Bog on 10th May and at Wheldrake Ings on 15th April. In V.C. 63, occasionally reported from Blacktoft with one on 14th May; four on 11th, three on 15th; two on 4th June and one on 25th and 27th July. Three at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15th May otherwise all other records concerned single birds; at Wombwell Ings on 10th April; Edderthorpe on 13th May; Lock Lane on 14th May; Blaxton on 26th May; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th, 15th and 26th August and finally at Winterset Res. on 23rd/24th August with another southwest there on 23rd; on 26th; 27th and 29th (three birds) and from 9th to 11th September.

In spring, in V.C. 64, reported from Swillington Ings on 30th April; 3rd and 10th May with two on 14th; four on 15th and two on 18th. Singles at Farnham and Hay-a-Park on 11th May; Fairburn Ings on 14th and 15th and Otley on 18th.

In autumn, singles at Swillington Ings on 15th July; Gouthwaite Res. on 30th; Fairburn Ings on 24th August and Hay-a-Park on 26th. During the adverse weather on 29th October, three flew west over Swillington Ings whilst 15 flew south at Fairburn.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

One at Swillington Ings on 29th and 30th April then, in May, at Blacktoft, one on the 6th; 9th/10th; 20th; 22nd and 29th; two on 23rd; three on 24th. Seven on 20th and 21st at Tudworth with six the following day. Three at Spurn on 14th with one on 20th. In June, three at Pulfin Bog on 17th/18th; at Blacktoft one on 8th; 16th and between the 20th and

22nd; two on 13th/14th with three between 17th and 19th. One at Fairburn Ings from 15th to 25th; at Staveley on 25th and Swillington on 29th.

One at Swillington on 10th July; at Blacktoft on 21st; at Spurn on 26th with two on 29th whilst at Flamborough 14 present on 22nd with two on 24th; one on 27th; five on 29th and three on 30th.

During August quite widespread in ones and twos but seven at Blacktoft on 25th and nine on 31st; up to four at Tophill Low Res. from 27th to 31st; four at Flamborough; five on 11th and seven on 18th; five at Fairburn Ings on 26th/27th with four from 28th to 30th; six at Swillington Ings on 26th.

In September; three at Sunk Island on 10th; five at Tophill Low Res. on 11th; four at Blacktoft on 11th and four at Mickletown Ings on the 4th.

Very few in October with one at Blacktoft on 2nd and 5th; at Sunk Island on the 7th/8th and at Flamborough on 28th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Single birds reported during May at Blacktoft on 2nd; Farnham from 8th to 10th; Pulfin Bog on 14th; Farnham and Swillington Ings on 17th, the one at Swillington being present the following day; Tophill Low Res. on 20th; Farnham and Ardsley Res. on 21st. One at Swillington Ings on 1st June and at Blacktoft on 18th.

The only autumn record being one at Blacktoft on 25th August.

White-rumped sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

An adult at Blacktoft Sands from 9th to 14th August (AG *et al*); not yet submitted to the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

One at Wombwell Ings on 25th and 26th May (JMT, DMW *et al*). An adult at Blacktoft from 2nd to 8th July; another there on 28th July (AG *et al*). Juvenile at Fairburn Ings from 11th to 20th September (LB, GT *et al*) being joined by another juvenile on 18th which remained to 10th October (RH *et al*). One at Burstwick on 30th September (SM).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

In spring, single birds at Tophill Low Res. on 20th and 21st March; at Blacktoft on 20th April; Spurn on 13th May with a different individual the following day; at Blacktoft again on 15th and 27th. One or two birds at Blacktoft between 3rd and 23rd June involving four individuals. Two at Tudworth on 21st April and one there on 22nd.

Few in autumn with, at Blacktoft, one on 22nd July then increasing in numbers to 11 by the 28th; up to nine during early August then five in mid-month (all these being adults). Single immature there on 31st August with one or two from the 2nd to 14th October and one on 10th November.

Elsewhere few birds were reported with four at Flamborough on 27th August; three at Sunk Island on 30th July; two at Redmires Res. on 18th September; at Filey on 1st September; the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 8th September; Sunk Island on 19th August. Single birds were also reported in autumn from Winterset Res. Wath Ings; Fairburn Ings; Nosterfield; Mickletown Ings; Burstwick and Tophill Low Res. Generally a poor year.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Maxima during the early months at Filey Brigg were 50 in January; 60 during February; 131 in March; 250 in April and 235 in May. The peak in May occurring on the 6th after which numbers declined rapidly to three on the 13th. The first returning birds of the autumn appearing on 2nd July; numbers during the latter months being lower than spring with a peak of 70 in October. Flamborough recorded 54 on 2nd January with 65 on 15th thereafter quite scarce excepting 30 being present on 27th March and 36 on 8th April. During the latter months 43 were counted on 18th November; 45 on 2nd December with 48 on 31st, otherwise less than 30 were present.

In V.C. 62, 40 at Scarborough on 2nd January; 34 at Burniston on 6th January; 80 at Whitby on 27th November.

Occasionally recorded along the Holderness coast with 13 north off Hornsea on 28th August; three north there on 8th October and four north on 15th November. Single birds occasionally at Spurn and Holmpton whilst along the estuary one was at Stone Creek on 11th February.

Reported from inland freshwater locations with one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th and 26th October; one with a broken leg at Winterset Res. on 17th October, another there from 27th to 30th October (Blackmoorfoot bird?) and one at Ardsley Res. on 2nd September.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Breeding information scanty from V.C. 64 with records received only from Fountains Fell; Ilkley, Burley and Morton Moors. Small numbers bred on the southern Pennine moors of V.C. 63 in the vicinities of Sheffield; Bradford and Huddersfield. No comments received from V.C. 65.

Maxima at Spurn during the winter months being: 500 on 16th January; 600 on 12th February; 800 on 28th March; 2000 on 24th October; 2250 on 3rd November and 2000 on 5th December. At Sunk Island, 3846 were recorded on 28th January with 2107 on 11th February; 666 on 13th March; 922 on 22nd April and 718 on 13th May. Numbers had increased again in early autumn to 700 on 15th July with 1000 the following day; 1328 on 22nd with 4230 on 29th then decreasing to 800 by 12th August; 616 on 2nd September but 1062 on 14th October; 825 on 25th November then 2738 on 30th December. The Humber Wildfowl Refuge reported a maximum of 2170 during November. Further up the estuary, Blacktoft had up to 110 in January; 140 in February; 850 in March (10th); 500 in April and 120 in May. By July numbers had increased again to 240 with 143 in August; 170 in September; 255 during October and 125 in December.

Inland, the Lower Derwent reported slightly below average numbers with 200 at Wheldrake Ings on 7th January and 200 at Ellerton on the 15th. Totals along the whole area of the Ings were 340 on 21st January with 235 on 26th. In March, 450 were present on the 7th with 218 on the 21st. Good numbers in April with, at Wheldrake, 185 on 7th; 190 on 14th; 150 on 24th and 250 on both 25th and 30th whilst Thorganby held 100 on the 12th with 150 at Melbourne on the 14th.

Elsewhere inland, Wath Ings reported between 20 and 35 during the early months with the peak for the year of 38 on 24th August. Winterset Res. had a maximum of 31 on 25th August; Lock Lane 30 on 14th May; Fairburn Ings up to 36 in January with 39 on 15th May; 60 on 26th August; Swillington Ings 37 on 14th May and Gouthwaite Res. 37 on 27th July.

Coastal passage was heavy on 29th July with 110 off Filey; 1082 at Flamborough and 1111 at Spurn whilst on 28th October 448 passed Filey; 551 at Flamborough with 1635 south off Holmpton and 2466 at Spurn. On the latter date 50 flew west at Fairburn Ings with 38 at Swillington and 21 passed through Pugney's.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

One at Hornsea Mere on 11th and 12th May (GRB *et al.*).

Addition to the 1986 Report: One at Saltend on 17th and 18th May (SLJ *et al.*).

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus*

An adult in full summer plumage at Flamborough on 2nd July (AMA, PAL, GRB, JCL, GAS, MN, PJW) was seen the following day at Catwick remaining until the 4th (GRB, EWC *et al.*). The second record for Yorkshire, the first being at Easington Lagoons from 31st August to 3rd September 1954 also being the first for Britain.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

At least three leks were observed along the Lower Derwent with possible breeding taking place. Numbers were quite high during the early months here with 50 on 1st January;

34 on 8th; 57 on 15th and 31 on 31st; smaller numbers during February with 29 on 9th; 21 on 21st and 47 on the 28th. March saw good numbers when 79 were present on the 7th with 56 on 21st and 26th then 86 on 29th and 50 on 31st. Over 50 present during April until the last week of the month. Few birds were reported elsewhere in the county during the spring with 12 at Barmston on 23rd May and 14 at Blacktoft on 7th being the only records of more than ten.

Blacktoft, as usual, reported large numbers during the autumn with a peak of adult birds in July of 41 on 16th thence 67 on 23rd. Juveniles peaked in August with 101 on 14th and 162 on 31st; in September, 156 on the 1st and 114 on the 14th. 68 were reported on 12th October decreasing to 22 on 26th then up to seven during November and one on 10th December. Other locations reported smaller numbers with Tophill Low Res. having less than ten most of the autumn excepting between 15 and 22 during late August and 26 on 2nd September; 19 on the 7th and 21 on 16th. 16 at Broomfleet on 31st October; 36 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 23rd October; 23 on the Lower Derwent on 1st December. In V.C. 63 only small numbers away from Blacktoft with seven at Digley on 31st March; seven at Wath Ings on 27th August and nine in the vicinity of Winterset on 27th August. V.C. 64 had few birds with eight at Swillington Ings on 2nd/3rd May with four at this location and nearby Fairburn Ings during late spring. Nosterfield recorded four occasionally during the autumn whilst several other locations had one to two birds in both spring and autumn.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

Most areas again had a poor year though V.C. 64 reported almost twice as many records as last year with birds being recorded from 14 locations during both winters with extreme dates of 23rd April and 9th October. Most records were of one bird though five were together in a field of winter wheat near Harrogate on 1st January; three at Staveley on 26th January and six at Methley G.P. on 12th February. Four at Spurn on 1st October; two at Barmston on 24th December and two near Muston on 14th January.

One to three birds were reported from 16 locations in V.C. 63 with slightly more records during the early months of the year than the latter. Higher numbers reported were four at Wombwell Ings on 3rd January with six there on 21st March; four in the Wath area on 4th March. The earliest record of the autumn in this V.C. being two at High Royd S.F. on 24th September, whilst the first reported in the county was at Spurn on 17th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

The breeding population of the lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area was reported as 'of at least average size'. 209 drumming birds were counted in this area. Elsewhere in V.C. 61 breeding occurred at Scampston with possible breeding at Tophill Low Res.; Pulfin Bog and Hornsea Mere. Small numbers bred at lowland sites in V.C. 63, particularly around the Doncaster and Barnsley areas whilst moderate numbers were reported breeding in the upland areas. Breeding was only proven at eight locations in V.C. 64 although drumming birds were reported from many locations. No comments received from V.C. 65. Widespread in all suitable locations with, in V.C. 61; 50 at Spurn on 4th December; 70 at Flamborough on 26th August; 122 at Filey on 17th December with 94 at Barmston on 24th December. 100+ at Ellerton Ings on 13th March; 70 at Tophill Low Res. on 12th August and 90+ at Fulford Ings on 31st March.

In V.C. 63, 90 at Wath/Wombwell Ings on 5th April, 80 on 12th August and 125 on 22nd October. 108 at Blacktoft on 12th August with 85 on 15th; 100 at Carlton on 19th February. 156 at Otley G.P. on 4th November was the largest gathering in V.C. 64 with 79 at Fairburn Ings on 10th March and 84 on 23rd October.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

One at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea, on 28th and 29th May. (DD, RSS, DS).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Addition to the 1986 Report: Single at Hull Docks on 9th August (SLJ). Still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Bred at Tophill Low Res., the first occurrence for that location. Bred or possibly bred in the York area at Brandsby; Wigginton; Stockton-on-Forest; Askham Bog; Deighton; Crockey Hill; Skipwith Common and Allertorpe Common. In V.C. 63, four to six pairs bred at Edlington Wood with at least six pairs at Wilsic. Roding birds were reported from at least 31 other locations in this V.C. Confirmed breeding in V.C. 64 occurred at Eccup and Timble with roding being reported from a further 25 locations.

A poor year along the coast with nine at Flamborough on 29th October being the largest number reported. Inland, 14 at Wilsic on 4th November whilst 16 were flushed at Thornton Ellers by beaters on 16th January.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

A very disappointing year along the Lower Derwent with few birds reported and no attempted breeding. An unprecedented passage south at Flamborough of 45 on 28th July, 42 of which were also reported at Tophill Low Res. the same day. Westerly passage was reported along the estuary at Blacktoft with 72 being reported on 25th April and 65 on 8th.

Reported frequently at Sunk Island particularly during the latter months with 17 on 12th August; 16 on 2nd September; 20 on 16th; 18 on 24th; 36 on 25th; 26 on 27th; 35 on 28th; 49 on 30th then 38 on 8th October and 47 on 9th December. 17 at Blacktoft on 29th June with 20 on 20th August; 24 on 2nd October. Eight at Spurn on 28th July.

Numerous locations reported one to three birds with 11 at Wath Ings on 1st September and what was no doubt the same flock also being reported at Fairburn Ings the same day. Six at Fairburn from 5th to 10th September whilst Gouthwaite had four on 29th and 30th July; four at Wath on 8th July.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Sunk Island, on the Humber, held 564 on 2nd January with 238 on 12th February; 95 on 12th March; 447 on 22nd April then 318 on 26th May; 168 on 25th June; 79 on 26th August; 118 on 16th September; 85 on 22nd October; 83 on 25th November and 142 on 31st December. On the Humber at Spurn 66 were recorded on 10th February with 171 on 19th; 57 on 1st March and 54 on 3rd October otherwise numbers varied between one and 26 usually however being less than 15. Coastal passage was light with 24 south at Spurn on 28th July as the most reported there whilst at other watchpoints only Filey produced a count of double figures with 16 on 23rd July.

Away from the coast, in V.C. 61, eight flew northwest over Puffin Bog on 8th July whilst single birds were reported from Burstwick; Tophill Low Res. and two at North Duffield Carrs on 9th May. Westerly passage was noted at Blacktoft on 20 days during the period 20th June to 7th September; 102 birds being recorded with 17 on 12th July as maximum. 16 also flew west at this location on 4th May whilst elsewhere in this V.C. seven flew east at Pugney's on 13th April; one at Utley on 4th May; two northeast at Winterset Res. on 18th May with three west there on 20th August and nine west on 2nd September. One east over Southfield Res. on 7th November. In V.C. 64, 26 flew south over Swillington Ings on 11th August with one there on 11th March; 26th August and 2nd September. Fairburn Ings reported one on 24th and 30th April with another from 4th to 12th May, a second bird being present on 12th and three on the 13th; two were there on 3rd September. One at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th August.

Single at Bolton-on-Swale on 24th July whilst in V.C. 62 one was seen displaying repeated in Rosedale on 6th May.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The first of the year was reported from Hornsea Mere on 27th March with four at Filey Brigg on 31st; many locations having reported birds by 12th April. The spring roost at

Wheldrake Ings generally held smaller numbers than during the previous two years with birds being present from 12th April to 18th May; 61 on 30th April and 52 on 1st May being the highest counts. Elsewhere in V.C. 61 numbers were not unusual in spring with maxima of 17 at Flamborough on 6th May; of 14 at Sunk Island on 20th May and 11 at Filey on 2nd May. Inland, small numbers were reported from some 20 locations with ten at Staveley on 20th April; seven at Blacktoft on 3rd May and six at Staveley on 1st May.

Heavy southerly passage at Spurn during the latter days of July with 150 on 28th but not reported elsewhere although Flamborough had 38 on 29th. In August; 33 were reported at Hornsea on 6th with 72 at Filey on that same date; 44 at Flamborough on 14th with 48 the following day and 51 on 19th whilst 86 passed south at Spurn on 20th with 68 at Filey on 26th. 22 at Sunk Island on both 5th and 6th August.

Inland, in V.C. 63, small numbers were reported from some 14 locations with 11 west at Blacktoft on 20th August; ten at Winterset Res. on 20th and ten at Tickhill on 19th and seven west over Pugney's on 16th. Reported from 19 locations in V.C. 64 with 14 over Swillington Ings on 26th August; nine over Fairburn Ings on 20th otherwise one to three birds usually involved. Six over Bolton-on-Swale was the only party reported from V.C. 65. Last reported were five at Spurn on 26th September and one there on 27th October.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

52 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal which was considered as normal numbers; also bred or possibly bred at a further 16 locations in the York area. Bred in V.C. 61 at Scampston Carrs; no other breeding records being received from this V.C. None received from V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 'bred at all the usual upland sites though uncertain how they fared in the relatively dry conditions'. Numbers in V.C. 64 were said to be stable on the high ground though there was an increase in breeding numbers on the lower ground especially in the Leeds area. No comment from V.C. 65.

Numbers at Sunk Island were low all year with 677 on 28th January; 537 on 12th February after which less than 200 until 212 on 25th June thence 530 on 29th July; 820 on 12th August with 650 on 2nd September; 556 on 22nd October; 500 on 25th November and 453 on 30th December. Almost daily on the Humber at Spurn though never more than 26 reported.

In V.C. 64 up to 78 were in the Denton area of the Wharfe valley during January no doubt as a result of the mild weather whilst spring passage occurred from early February with 150+ at Denton on 18th and 130 at Otley on 26th. In March 106 at Eccup on 7th and 64 at Knotford Nook on 4th. 60 at Staveley on 30th was a little unusual considering breeding birds had young on some moorland sites by this date.

In V.C. 65, 950 were reported from Leyburn on 21st January with 600+ being present at that location during February and March whilst at Bolton-on-Swale 200 were reported on 7th January with 390 on 28th. 605 had returned to Leyburn by 11th November.

Coastal passage was light though 117 were recorded moving east at Spurn on 22nd April whilst at Blacktoft westerly passage was reported between 10th June and 19th September with 212 on 2nd July.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The over wintering bird at Blacktoft remained there until 15th April whilst one was reported from Wheldrake Ings on 7th February. Single birds were reported from Filey on 28th March and in April from Tophill Low Res. almost daily from 4th to 12th; Blacktoft (excluding the one above) on 17th; 19th; 25th and 28th; at Fairburn Ings on 26th; Pugney's on 27th and Bolton-on-Swale from 29th into May. Three birds were present at Blacktoft on 3rd May otherwise single birds at Wheldrake Ings; Tophill Low Res.; Sunk Island; Fairburn Ings; Filey and Swillington Ings during the month. In June, four at Sunk Island on 16th; two at Blacktoft on 13th with three on 21st and 22nd. Single birds also reported during this month at Tophill Low Res.; Filey; Leventhorpe Hall Pond and Wath/Wombwell Ings.

Autumn passage was light with one to two at Blacktoft; four at Pulfen Bog on 15th September; three at Sunk Island on 27th August; four at Spurn on 18th July with two at

Cherry Cobb on 20th August; Spurn on 26th and 29th August; Tophill Low Res. on 22nd August; Thorpe Marsh on 9th August; Fairburn Ings on 3rd September and Swillington Ings on 6th September.

Over wintering birds were recorded from Blacktoft with two from 24th November into 1990; one at Newington from 26th to 28th December and two at Leighton Res. on 11th December.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

A good breeding population maintained along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area with c124 pairs. Elsewhere status would appear to be unchanged though V.C. 64 considered there may be a slight increase.

Daily on the Humber at Spurn excepting some 20 dates during mid summer with monthly maxima of 294 in January; 400 on 12th February then 380 on 11th March; 150 on 30th April then falling to 100 on 7th May with less than 15 during the latter half of that month. Single figures during June excepting 32 on 24th then 400 occasionally in July, 1150 on 18th August; 983 on 17th September falling to 800 in early October; 577 on 3rd November and 102 on 17th December. A similar picture at Sunk Island with below 100 until early March then 198 on 25th; 282 on 8th April; 145 on 23rd July; 823 on 5th August falling to 480 by late September and continuing to decrease to the end of the year with 86 on 31st December.

Small numbers reported from V.C. 63 with Blacktoft having up to 78 during January; 60 in February and 55 in March; away from this location; Wath had up to 18 in January with 25 in February and 23 in March. 27 reported in the Rother Valley C.P. on 19th March. 20 at Fairburn Ings in February with up to 12 at Swillington Ings. 13 at Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, in January. Peaks in spring were 91 at Blacktoft on 7th April with 65 at Swillington Ings on 23rd April. 144 at Blacktoft on 17th September being the autumn maximum at that location.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A single wintering bird at Fairburn Ings from January into April whilst one was reported from Wheldrake Ings on 4th and 5th February with what may have been another bird at Ellerton on 26th and North Duffield Carrs on 28th. Small numbers were reported during late March at several locations becoming more widespread in April with three at Fairburn Ings on 21st. In May, widespread with larger numbers reported including five at Wombwell Ings on 26th; ten at Blacktoft on 10th with 13 on the 27th and up to three at Tophill Low Res. Smaller numbers into June before autumn birds returned at the end of that month. Seven were at Flamborough on 2nd July; eight at Blacktoft on 22nd July and eight at Swillington Ings on 9th and 12th. One to five in August at many locations with seven at Barlow Common on the 9th; seven at Fairburn Ings on 20th; 11 at North Duffield Carrs on 25th; seven at Tophill Low Res. on 14th; nine at Wath Ings on 30th with 12 at Blacktoft on 25th and nine at Bolton-on-Swale on the 31st. Numbers decreased in September with seven at Tophill Low Res. on 14th; nine at Wath on 3rd and 5th. One to two occasionally at 12 locations in October. Single bird at Ardsley on 6th; 12th and 16th November whilst at Fairburn Ings one was present throughout this month and December with another at Blacktoft from 25th November until the end of the year. Little coastal passage reported though five were recorded coming in from the east at Spurn on 8th April.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One to two birds were reported wintering at Melbourne; Thornton Ellers; Bielby; Winterringham Lake; Tophill Low Res.; Bolton-on-Swale; Fairburn Ings; Swillington Ings; Mickletown Ings and at least eight, unnamed, locations in V.C. 63. Slightly more in March with up to four at Tophill Low Res. and seven at Thorpe Marsh on the 8th. One to four at many locations during April with six at Tophill Low Res. on 16th and seven there on 25th. Few in May then birds reported on passage from late June with seven at Blacktoft on 26th. Numbers built up in July with 21 at Blacktoft by 17th and 18 at Tophill Low Res. on 14th with 12 at Burstwick on 18th and ten at Wath on 27th. The peak count at Tophill Low Res. of 28 being recorded on 25th July and again on 3rd August with 22 there on 19th August.

Very few were reported elsewhere during August with V.C. 64 having a very poor year. In September, 12 were at Wath Ings on 5th; 17 at Tophill Low Res. on 5th with ten on the 21st; no other location reporting more than five excepting six at Pulfin Bog on 3rd. Few in October with four at Tophill Low Res. on 15th. One to two birds at several locations in November with birds in December reported from Knostrop S.F.: Swillington Ings; Farnham; seven locations in V.C. 63 (mainly in the Doncaster and Bradford areas); Bielby; Catwick; Pulfin Bog and Filey. A count of six at Melbourne (V.C. 61) on 21st November was unusual.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

The first bird of the year was reported at Tophill Low Res. on 1st May staying until the 4th with two at Swillington Ings on 2nd when one was at Blacktoft; one at Fairburn Ings on 4th with two south over the Humber at Spurn the same day. Quite widespread during the rest of the month, usually one bird though two or more at several locations. At Flamborough three were reported on 21st with seven on the 22nd and two on 23rd; two at Filey on 9th were then reported almost daily until the 26th; two at Tophill Low Res. from the 9th to 14th; three at Blacktoft on the 9th and 10th with two again on 19th and four on the 23rd; two, at least on Thorne Moors on 21st; two at Bolton-on-Swale on 24th and three at Fairburn Ings on 21st. Single birds were reported from Hornsea Mere; Grimston; Burstwick; Pulfin Bog; Barmston (with two on 31st May); Sunk Island; Broomhill Flash; Wombwell Ings; Pugney's; Tudworth and Holmewood G.P. in spring.

Less widespread in autumn with both Wath and Blacktoft having several birds. The former reported one from 4th to 14th August with two on the 15th and 16th then three on 17th/18th with one again on 19th; three on 20th/21st; five on 22nd and then finally one from 23rd to 27th being reported again on 30th. Blacktoft had the first of the autumn on 15th July with another from 2nd to 5th August; two from 6th to 10th with three on the 11th and 13th; two from 14th to 18th with one on the 27th then one from 12th to 14th September. One at Swillington Ings on 6th August with two on 27th whilst nearby Fairburn Ings recorded one on 10th September with three on 14th then one until 27th. Two at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th August. Single birds occasionally reported from Flamborough; Filey; Wheldrake Ings; North Duffield Carrs; Tudworth; Thorpe Marsh; Tophill Low Res.; Burstwick; Hornsea and Atwick.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

One in summer plumage on the afternoon of 16th June at Blackmoorfoot Res. constituted the second record for Yorkshire of this species (MLD, MT, TC *et al*).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One at Woodlesford Lock, Leeds, on 23rd March and 2nd April with the next birds being reported on 11th April from High Batts N.R.; Dowley Gap (Bingley) and Filey. Reported on the 12th from Fairburn Ings and Winterset Res. with birds being widespread by the 20th. No particularly large numbers were reported during spring.

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged; mainly on the upland areas though at least two pairs bred at Blaxton Settling Ponds.

Autumn passage recorded from mid July with no build up this year at Gouthwaite thus no large counts from V.C. 64 where the maximum reported was 12 at Swillington Ings on 26th July with 11 at Lindley Wood Res. on 13th. In V.C. 63, 13 at Redmires Res. on 17th July was the highest count from that V.C. whilst ten at Pulfin Bog on 2nd September was the only record of double figures in V.C. 61.

Single birds were reported in November from the Rother Valley C.P. on 12th and Thorpe Marsh on 30th whilst over wintering birds were reported throughout November and December from both Eccup Res. and Fairburn Ings.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

At Flamborough; 81 on 2nd January; 115 on 7th; 83 on 15th and 105 on 29th; low counts in February with maximum of 20 and March with 11; up to 36 in April and 44 in May.

Smaller numbers during the latter months with 68 on 2nd September; 65 on 10th and 50 on 23rd. Up to 40 during October and November though 57 on 3rd/4th November and 120 on 12th. 52 on 2nd December being the highest count in that month. Maxima in the winter months at Filey being 53 in January; one in February (inland); 70 in March; 30 during April; 40 in May; 54 in September; 55 in October; ten in November and 92 during December. At Spurn, 56 in January; 60 in February; 39 in March; 38 in April; 48 in May; 185 in August; 260 in September with 200 in October; 67 in November and 31 during December. In V.C. 62, up to 57 at Burniston in January with 58 in February and 85 in March; smaller numbers during the latter months with 27 there in September; 41 in October and 75 in December. 89 at Saltwick Nab on 15th February.

Away from the coast; small numbers during all months at Sunk Island with 16 on 27th August as the maximum whilst Blacktoft had one to two occasionally though up to six on three days in August with 29 flying west on 25th. Elsewhere in V.C. 63, nine were reported from Wath on 26th August; nine at Redmires Res. on 30th flew in from the southeast whilst at Southfield Res. five were present on 25th. Single birds at a further four locations. One to two at five locations in V.C. 64 during both spring and autumn. One at Bolton-on-Swale on 25th August.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd and 4th June (AG) with one at Edderthorpe Flash on 6th June (AS).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Two south at Hornsea on 30th September (GRB); one at Filey Brigg from 28th to 30th October (DJS *et al*) with one at Flamborough on 29th (DGH) and one north at Hornsea on 17th November (GRB).

One flew into Fairburn Ings with Lapwings on 28th September, circled, and departed immediately to the west (CW, BB, SW).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Very early autumn passage and few juveniles reported from Flamborough indicating a poor breeding season.

Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 26th March; 3rd, 17th and 18th June. 108 birds recorded during July with eight on the 16th; 17 on 21st; 28 on 22nd and 15 on 23rd; 372 in August, being recorded almost daily, 26 on 5th; 20 on the 10th; 21 on 18th with 20 on 19th; 27 on 25th; 33 on 26th and 38 the following day. 278 counted on 15 days in September with peaks of 39 on 3rd; 59 on 8th; 49 on 9th and 40 on 10th. 147 in October when 25 were recorded on the 8th and 42 on the 28th. Only nine in November with one on 10th December. 131 passed Hornsea with peaks of seven on 30th July; 15 on 2nd August; 21 on 30th September and nine on 10th October. Only one bird recorded in November, on the 16th. Five flew south at Fraithorpe on 30th September when eight were reported at Barmston. One at this latter location on 16th November. At Spurn almost daily from the 13th August with one to four birds recorded; eight on 8th September and nine on 10th; one to four again at the end of the month with up to two birds occasionally in October. Filey had small numbers with maxima of 11 on 22nd July; six on 6th August; ten on 9th September and 11 on 10th.

One flew west at Sunk Island on 9th September with two west there on 8th October.

The only record from inland was of an adult flying west over Winterset Res. on 29th October (SD, PS *et al*).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

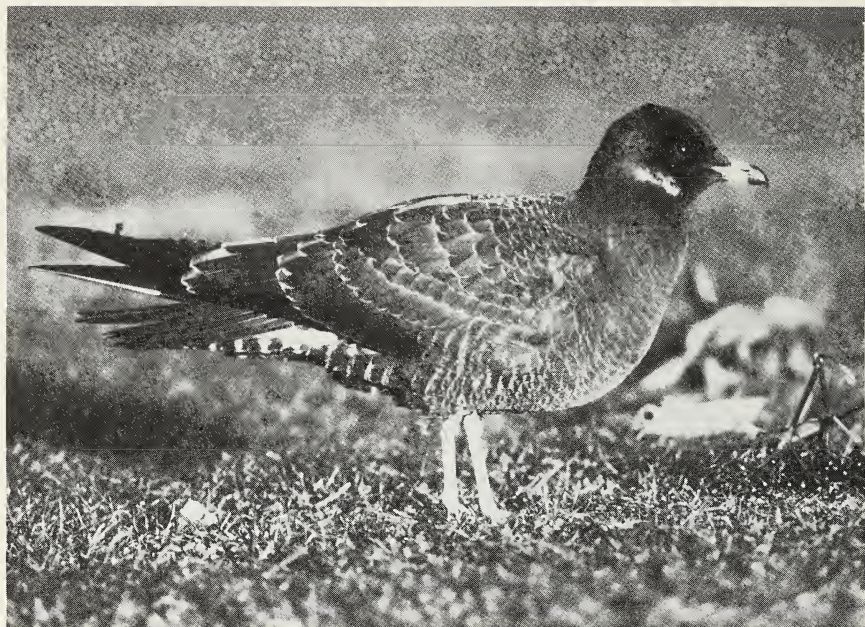
Single birds in May at Flamborough on 6th; at Sunk Island also on 6th; at Filey on 27th and 30th and Spurn on 29th whilst two were reported at Sunk Island on 12th; at Spurn on 24th with three at Flamborough on the 13th. In June, one at Flamborough on 2nd and 24th; at Spurn on the 16th and Sunk Island on 17th. From early July almost daily at Filey; Flamborough and Spurn with numbers increasing towards the end of the month; at



Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*, Fairburn Ings in June. (A. S. Butler)



Dotterel, *Charadrius morinellus*, Rosedale during May. (I. Newton)



Long-tailed Skua, *Stercorarius longicaudus*, South Leeds Golf Course, 26th September. (A. S. Butler)



Desert Wheatear, *Oenanthe deserti*, Burniston, 27th November. (J. Harriman)



Pallas's Warbler, *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Filey, 8th October. (P. J. Dunn)



Red-backed Shrike, *Lanius collurio*, Filey in September. (I. Newton)



Rustic Bunting, *Emberiza rustica*, Filey, 12th September. (P. J. Dunn)

Flamborough 14 were recorded on 9th with 16 on 15th; 18 on 16th; and 34 on 30th. One to four birds at Spurn during the latter days of this month with 21 on the 30th. August saw the bulk of the autumn passage with at Filey peaks of 423 on 27th; 167 on the 10th and 145 on 25th whilst at Flamborough 308 were reported on 12th; 112 on 13th; 152 on 19th; 119 on 25th; 592 on 27th. Spurn reported 90 on the 10th with 218 on the 27th. Less in September with 105 at Filey on 9th when 172 passed Flamborough after 205 the previous day and 168 on 10th; Spurn having 147 on 7th with 121 on 8th. Very few being reported at Hornsea during both these months. Only 181 reported from Flamborough during the whole of October with peaks of 33 on 2nd; 22 on 7th and 23 on 28th. 28 at Spurn on 7th and 23 on the 8th with 11 on 14th and 15th. Six at Spurn on 2nd November whilst no birds were reported during this month at Flamborough. One south off Hornsea on 22nd November.

Away from the coast, at Sunk Island, one to three were reported on most visits with four on 19th August and five on 26th; in September five were reported on 8th September with 32 on 9th and 15 on 10th. Single birds at Saltend on 24th; 30th September and 5th October.

Inland; one at Copmanthorpe, near York, on 28th September; one at Angler's on 25th August; one east over Redmires Res. on 26th August. In V.C. 64, a dark bird over Greenhow Hill on 20th April with a pale bird at Swillington Ings on 22nd June; a dark bird at this same location on 26th August.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

By recent standards only an average year with five birds at Filey; an adult on 16th July (HJW *et al*); two adults on 2nd August (CCT); an immature on 25th August (DJS, CCT) and another immature on 9th September (CCT). 29 individuals were reported from Flamborough with an adult on 21st July (PAL); immature on 1st August; adult on 7th; adult on 8th (PAL, JCL); three adults on 12th (AMA, JCL, MN, PJW); adult and immature on 18th; adult and immature on 19th; adult on 24th; two immatures on 27th and an adult on 31st (PAL, AMA). In September, an adult and immature on 8th (JCL, PAL); two immatures on 9th (AMA, PAL, DIMW); four adults and an immature on the 10th (PAL, JCL). In October, single adults were reported on 3rd and 4th with single immatures on the 14th and 21st (AMA, JCL, PAL, MN, PJW). Hornsea recorded 15 birds with an adult on 30th July; whilst in August an immature was present on 11th; an adult on 13th; an adult and immature on 27th; an adult and immature on the 28th (GRB). In September; two adults on 2nd; two immatures on 9th (WFC); single immatures on 19th and 20th (GRB) whilst in October an immature was recorded on the 6th (GRB) with an adult on the 27th (WFC). Seven birds reported from Spurn (all unaged) on 24th August; 1st; 4th; 9th; 11th; 27th and 28th September.

An adult flew west along the sea wall at Sunk Island on 18th August returning eastwards shortly afterwards (JW). Inland, a single juvenile took up residence at the South Leeds Golf Course on the 7th September remaining until the 26th (many obs).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

One at Flamborough on 22nd January with single birds in February on 4th; 5th and 12th; one at Spurn on 13th and 15th whilst one was reported from Filey during this month. Occasionally at Filey and Flamborough in March with two at the latter on 26th. One to three occasionally at Spurn and Flamborough during the period April to June with four at Flamborough on 24th June. More widespread in July with, at Flamborough, 23 on the 9th; 31 on 16th; 23 on 17th; 19 on 22nd and 23 on the 30th. Slightly larger counts recorded during August when 38 were off Flamborough on the 1st with 55 on the 2nd and 46 on the 27th when 11 were reported off Spurn. In September 191 passed Flamborough on the 9th with 65 at Spurn and 60 at Filey; 106 at Flamborough on the 10th and 26 at Spurn; 41 on 30th at Flamborough with 31 at Spurn. 62 at Flamborough on 2nd October with 85 on the 3rd; 59 on 7th; 96 on 8th then 33 on 14th and 53 on the 28th whilst 30 were recorded at Filey on the 7th with 42 at Hornsea on 8th; nine at Spurn on the 7th; eight on the 8th and nine on 27th. Eight at Flamborough on 4th and 5th November being the maxima during that month with five at Filey on 21st. Single birds were recorded during December from Flamborough on 8th and 31st; from Filey on 30th and Barmston on 13th.

Two flew east at Sunk Island on 26th August with three on 9th September and one the following day. Further up the river at Blacktoft one flew east along the Ouse on 9th September with two circling the area on the 10th departing to the east. In V.C. 64; one at Fairburn Ings on 30th September with another at Lingerfield on 3rd November.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Recorded from the coast with, at Spurn, single first year birds on 24th and 25th March; 8th April; adult over the Humber on 9th and 10th. Adult on 2nd September; adult and first year bird on 1st October with adults south on 21st and 29th; second year individual on 30th. Adult on 5th November. Second year bird at Easington on 22nd October. The regular wintering adult was present at Hornsea from 1988 until 17th March and again from 15th September until the end of the year. A first year bird there on 12th August. Barmston reported a first summer bird on 15th May with first winter birds on 21st; 27th September and 14th November; second winter bird on 25th September and adult on 29th. One at Flamborough on 25th March with two on 23rd April; two on 6th May; 6th November and 15th November otherwise single birds on 29th April; 21st and 30th July; 4th August; 30th September; 17th; 18th; 19th and 22nd October; 5th November. Filey reported probably their best year ever with first year birds on 21st May; 15th, 22nd and 23rd July; first year from 18th to 20th August; second year bird on 30th August and 9th September with adults on 30th September and 5th November. In V.C. 62 at Whitby on 22nd January; 5th/6th February; at Saltwick, adults on 23rd July and 1st October; in the Scarborough area, first year birds on 27th July; 22nd September and 5th October.

Away from the coast, an adult regularly at Hornsea Mere during late January to mid March and occasionally during the latter months of the year was no doubt the bird from the seafront whilst a first winter bird was reported on 12th August. Tophill Low Res. reported a first year bird on 17th September. A second summer bird at Wheldrake Ings on 11th April and a first winter bird there on 26th.

Still fairly scarce in V.C. 63 with all records concerning single birds at Blackmoorfoot Res. (adult) on 14th and 15th January; Ringstone Edge Res., a second year bird on 23rd July; Blacktoft, immatures on 27th July and 5th September; Broomhill Flash, first winter on 24th November; Edderthorpe Flash; first winter on 28th November; Blackmoorfoot Res., second winter on 15th December and first winter on 25th, 26th and 29th December.

Well recorded in V.C. 64 at favoured locations; Eccup Res. an adult on 22 days between 2nd January and 6th March with two adults on 5th and 7th January; an adult on 19 days between 14th October and 31st December. First winter birds on 14th and 22nd January; 26th February; 4th March; different bird on 4th and 14th February; 4th, 11th, 19th and 21st March; another first winter individual on 11th, 25th, 27th and 28th March. Second winter bird on 14th October with different first winter birds present on 4th November and 17th November (considered to involve eight or nine individuals). At Fairburn Ings the first winter bird from 1988 was present almost daily during January and on 3rd February; 5th, 9th to 11th March. A second winter bird on 30th September and a first winter bird on 16th November. At Farnham; a second summer bird present on 21st May. Knotford Nook had a first winter bird on 21st January (thought to be the Eccup bird of 14th); another first winter bird on 11th February (thought to be the Eccup bird of 4th February) with other first winter birds on 22nd October and 29th December. An adult in full summer plumage at Swillington Ings on 31st August.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Occasionally along the coast in winter and spring. Not until early July were double figures reported with, at Hornsea, 12 on the 3rd July remaining at this number until 20th when 34 were present; increased slowly to 107 on 1st August with 139 the following day then between 50 and 100 daily until 108 on 29th. Hornsea Mere had 12 on 24th June with 27 on 26th then increasing during July with 85 on 9th; 107 on 24th and 123 on 31st. Peak counts reported in August with 164 on 3rd; 186 on 10th and 11th; 240 on 22nd; 226 on 23rd; 236 on 24th with 328 on 29th (the highest count ever for this water).

Inland, in V.C. 63, reported from some 18 locations invariably one or two birds being involved though four at Thrybergh on 28th March; six at Ingbirchworth Res. on 22nd April; four at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6th May; five at Blacktoft on 8th June.

In V.C. 64, Fairburn Ings had single birds on 29th/30th April; from 14th to 27th May and on the 3rd and 4th June with two on 19th/20th and 22nd May and three on 21st. One at Chelker Res. on 7th May; at Mickletown Ings on 8th; two at Staveley on 13th May. Singles at Swillington Ings on 16th May; Lock Lane (Castleford) on 18th May. A first summer bird at Otley G.P. on 6th July. One at Eccup Res. on 11th August and on 11th October with one at Knotford Nook on 22nd. Adult at Weetwood (Leeds) on 31st October with a first winter bird at Swillington Ings from 28th October to 5th November.

Coastal passage in autumn/early winter was reported from many locations with 276 off Flamborough on 11th September; 501 there on the 12th when 54 were reported off Filey (maximum count there). At Spurn, northward movement of 351 on 27th; 349 on 28th; 407 on 29th and 110 on 30th when 507 passed Flamborough and a record 1505 off Hornsea. In October 126 at Flamborough on 4th with 143 on the 8th; 221 on 10th; 1513 on 28th and 614 on the 30th. Spurn recorded 255 on the 20th whilst Hornsea had 102 on 2nd and 167 on 8th; Holmpton reporting 56 south on 8th with 66 on 14th. In November; 342 south at Spurn on 2nd; 1479 at Flamborough on 4th when 250 flew south at Spurn with 1751 on 5th and 872 north at Hornsea; 185 at Flamborough on 6th with 413 at Hornsea where 200 were present the following day. 226 north at Hornsea on 9th November with 101 at Flamborough on 12th and 186 on 19th. Up to six offshore occasionally at Hornsea during December whilst 20 were off Flamborough on 25th.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*

A second winter bird off Flamborough on 12th November (PAL).

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

A good year starting with an immature off Flamborough on 11th June (AMA, JCL); immature there on 2nd August (MN); one at Filey on 6th (HJW *et al*); adult at Flamborough on 16th (AR); immatures there on 17th and 18th (AMA, JCL, PAL, MN, PJW); one at Filey on 27th (MGR, PMS, HJW) with an adult at Flamborough on the same day (AMA, DGH) whilst two adults flew north at Hornsea (GRB). An adult north at Barmston on 28th with a first year bird south at Spurn on 31st. In September, a juvenile at Flamborough on 4th (PAL); juvenile south off Hornsea on 8th (WFC); two adults north at Spurn on 9th when three adults flew north at Hornsea (WFC), an adult and two juveniles off Flamborough and an unaged bird at Filey (AMA, PAL, MN, JCL, PJW, JH *et al*). A juvenile at Filey on 10th and 11th with an adult south there on the latter day (JAP, PAR, CCT *et al*). An adult south at Spurn on 18th with one north at Hornsea on 20th (GRB); two adults at Filey on 27th (JH *et al*). A juvenile at Flamborough on 28th (AMA, JCL). On 8th October an immature off Holmpton (SLJ) with an adult at Hornsea (GRB). Finally, a first winter bird north at Hornsea on 22nd November (GRB) and an adult off Burniston on 27th (RB, BD).

Inland, an adult in summer plumage at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd August (DMO); a juvenile at Winterset Res. on 10th September (PM, PS) with another juvenile at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31st October (MLD, MT).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

1000+ breeding pairs along the Lower Derwent though success was low owing to dry conditions. Small numbers bred at Strensall Common. In V.C. 63, bred at Old Denaby and Black Moss though the latter colony was deserted in early June. In V.C. 64 considerable numbers bred at Upper Barden Res.; smaller numbers at Mickletown Ings; Methley G.P.; Ilton Moor with 250 pairs at Fairburn Ings and 350 pairs at Coverdale Tarn. In V.C. 65 bred at many moorland locations with a previously unreported colony at Colsterdale.

Large concentrations were reported from V.C. 61 with 15,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 21st February; 7000 at Sunk Island on 18th September whilst at Tophill Low Res. The monthly maxima were 3500 in January; 13,000 in February; 10,700 in March; 7000 in

September; 7000 in October; no counts in November and 6000 in December. In V.C. 63, 9000 were reported from Winterset Res. on 15th January with 5000 on 1st February; 6000 on 6th November; 10,000 on 17th November and 13,000 there on 28th December. 6000 at Pugney's on 18th December; 25,000 at Blacktoft on 15th September whilst at Southfield Res. 12,000 on 13th September; 27,000 on 26th October and 25,000 on 5th December. Roosts at Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, peaked at 8100 on 15th January with 6000 on 19th November; Hay-a-Park having 10,000 on 19th November; Eccup Res. 19,000 on 1st January; 9000 on 17th February; 7000 on 18th September; 12,000 on 17th October; 16,000 on 5th November and 15,000 during December. Bolton-on-Swale with 9000 on 4th February and up to 8000 during November held the largest concentrations in V.C. 65.

Addition to earlier Reports: Bred on Thorne Moors during the years 1984 to 1988 with varying success though 200 juveniles were present on 2nd July 1985.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Two birds present at Angram Res. between 1st May and 10th June though breeding was not proven.

Largest counts in V.C. 61 were 1550 at Flamborough on 14th January with 1250 the following day. 1250 at Sunk Island on 15th January and 2000 on 29th October. Hornsea Mere had up to 1650 in January; 1670 in February; 1500 in November and 2000 in December. Monthly maxima at Tophill Low Res. were 16,000 in January with 11,000 in February; 7000 in March and 7500 in April; 6000 in both October and December with no counts in November. Most counts in V.C. 63 were reported to be on the low side though 3500 were recorded at Thornton Moor Res. on 30th January and again on 30th December. 1000+ were roosting at Winterset Res. during December. The largest numbers in V.C. 64 were reported from Eccup Res. with 5000 on 1st January dropping to 2500 by early March though 4500 on 24th. 2500 were present there on 18th September rising to 4000 by 5th November remaining fairly constant until the end of the year.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

The only breeding record concerned a single pair at Angram Res. which reared two young.

Small numbers were reported from V.C. 61 with up to 50 at Spurn during late July though 70 on 26th; low counts during August excepting 119 on 20th and 120 on the 25th thereafter less than 20 to the end of the year. A similar situation along the remainder of the coast and inland in this V.C. Brighton Tip reported 150 on 8th July with 300 on 2nd September. In V.C. 63 300+ were at Pontefract during July; 480 in the Wath area on 26th July and 400 on 17th October; 350 at Winterset Res. on 1st November; 252 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th October; 400+ at Southfield Res. on 13th September with 511 there on 26th October; up to 450 during autumn at Blacktoft roosting on the Humber. Between 200 and 400 at Ardsley Res. during August and September with 180 in October. Numbers small in V.C. 64 during the early months but 110+ at Eccup Res. on 24th March with 115 on 19th April and 142 on 16th May at Swillington Ings. 130 at Mickletown Ings on 13th July whilst 260 flew over Fairburn Ings on 14th. Larger counts reported during the autumn with 364 at Eccup Res. on 13th October; 500 at Swillington Ings during August and 250 to 300 during October and November; 250 at Malham Tarn on 21st and 31st August. In V.C. 65, 1425 at Bolton-on-Swale on 11th July with 1100 on 28th September.

Birds attributed to one of the Scandinavian races *L.f.fuscus* or *L.f.intermedius* were reported in small numbers from many locations. 12 at Flamborough on 22nd July; 15 in the Wath area 8th September and c100 at Brighton Tip on 2nd September.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

An estimated 950 pairs bred on the cliffs at the RSPB reserve at Bempton. Flamborough reported a maximum count of 1200 on 24th October whilst Hornsea Mere had up to 850 in March. Maximum at Spurn being 1750 on 29th October. 110 at Wheldrake Ings on 31st January was the highest number recorded in the York area where it is considered to be grossly under reported. Highest counts in V.C. 63 were 1200 at Winterset Res. on

14th January with 2400 on 25th December; 2300 at Langsett Res. on 4th January; 1000 at Blacktoft during the latter months of the year roosting on the Humber and 900 at Pugney's on 18th December. Maxima reported in V.C. 64 were 1200 at Fairburn Ings on 25th February with 750 on 3rd March and 800 on 8th December. Up to 500 at Swillington Ings during the period October to December. 1770 at Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, on 7th January with 700 there on 30th December.

'Yellow-legged' Herring Gulls of either the race *L. a. cachinnans* or *L. a. michahellis* were reported from many locations, usually single birds but four at Bolton-on-Swale on 25th February and three there on 14th July.

Large, dark-backed birds considered to belong to northern populations were frequently reported from Flamborough with 77 on 19th November; 42 on 17th; 32 on 30th December and 25 on 31st.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Rather scarce along the coast with one at Spurn on 3rd October; Flamborough on 26th February; 18th March; 8th and 9th April; 3rd and 9th to 11th December. One at Filey on 1st November with another bird there on 4th; 7th and 25th December. One at Hornsea on 16th November with one at Hornsea Mere on 16th November. Two first winter birds in Bridlington harbour between 22nd and 24th November. In V.C. 62; a single first winter bird in the Whitby/Staitheys area on several days during January and February with an adult at Scarborough on 25th and 28th February. Second winter bird in Scarborough on 27th and 30th October. Single birds in V.C. 63 at Worsbrough Res. on 1st January (1st winter); 'sub adult' at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th January; 1st winter at Pugney's on 30th January; 1st and 7th February; second winter at Southfield Res. on 20th November with another at Thrybergh Res. on the same day. A second winter bird frequented Winterset Res.; Stairfoot Tip and Broomhill/Wath on most days from 19th December to the end of the year. First winter bird at Low Moor Tip on 27th and 31st December whilst a second year bird was at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th December. Single first winter birds at Ardsley Res. on 3rd February; 13th and 21st March; 18th November and 30th December with an adult there on several days between 1st January and 28th March.

The pale adult of previous years was again reported in V.C. 64 from Eccup Res.; Esholt S.W.; Knotford Nook and Pool Meadows occasionally between 1st January and 28th March (as well as at Ardsley Res. above). This bird returned for its sixth winter on 10th December wandering between locations as before. An adult west at Fairburn Ings on 9th January with a first winter bird there on 25th February. Other first winter birds were present at Eccup Res. on 4th January; 18th and 23rd March, this latter bird being seen at Swillington Ings on 17th and 18th March. A first winter bird at Fairburn Ings from 26th to 28th and 30th December. Single bird at Nosterfield, in V.C. 65, on 26th November with a first winter bird at Bolton-on-Swale from 17th to 30th March.

A bird, considered to be in its fourth year, showing the characteristics of Kumlien's Gull *L. g. kumlieni*, was reported from Bolton-on-Swale between 15th March and 25th March. This record is at present under consideration by the various records committees.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Recorded from most locations along the coast during both winters; usually single birds though two birds occasionally at Flamborough; Hornsea and Whitby. Three at Flamborough on 18th November; 2nd and 11th December. One at Filey on 10th May and at Hornsea on 28th May and 2nd June otherwise all records from the coast were in the periods January to late April and October to December. The only inland records in V.C. 61 were from Tophill Low Res. with one on 3rd March and 23rd December.

One at Seamer G.P. on 29th December being the only record away from the coast in V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 single birds were reported from Winterset Res. on 1st; 3rd; 5th to 21st January; 3rd and 18th March; from Wath on 5th February; from Low Moor Tip on 2nd January; Pugney's on 3rd January and 14th March; Broadstones Res. on 18th February and Blacktoft Sands on 13th March. During the latter months, one at Thorne Moors on 26th November and then in December from Blacktoft on 2nd; Blackmoorfoot Res. on

15th; Pontefract Park on 17th; Low Moor Tip on 17th and 25th; Wath on 7th and 22nd; Winterset area, fourth year bird from 16th to 19th; adults from 16th to 19th and 23rd and 26th with a third year bird on 16th and 24th. Ardsley Res. reported single birds on 6th; 16th and 18th January (adult) with a fourth year bird present on 21st; first winter bird on 1st; 3rd; 5th; 16th to 18th February. First winter bird on 2nd, 23rd and 24th December with another on 31st.

Two adults were recorded at Eccup Res. in V.C. 64, on 7th January otherwise all records were of single birds at, Eccup Res. on 2nd January; Fairburn Ings on 7th January and 5th February; Mickletown Ings on 14th February; Swillington Ings on 21st March and Farnham on 26th March. Only two records in the latter months, an adult at Newsam Green Tip on 23rd and 30th December with a different adult at Swillington Ings on 30th December.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Numbers again generally on the low side with only Flamborough along the coast reporting more than 1000. Scarce there during the early months of the year with less than 100 recorded; up to 250 during August and September then 580 on 7th October; 765 on 25th and 1100 on 29th. 880 on 3rd November. 300 at Spurn on 20th August was the highest count there whilst at Filey 120 on 20th September and 300 at Burniston on 6th January were maxima at those locations. 750 at Hornsea Mere in October being the most reported from that location with Tophill Low Res. having monthly maxima of 480 in January; 650 in February; 180 in March; 48 in October; 75 in November and 650 during December. Maximum at Wheldrake Ings was 250 on 1st March.

Widespread in V.C. 63 with 700 at Pugney's on 18th December and 500 there on both 24th November and 28th December; c500 at Blacktoft throughout the autumn and early winter; 600 at Winterset Res. on 25th December with 420 there on 18th January; 450 at Pugney's on 18th January.

By far the largest numbers reported in V.C. 64 were at Fairburn Ings with 1400 on 25th February; 700 on 3rd March; 700 on 18th September; 900 on 4th November and 900 again on 3rd December. Other high counts were 400 at Swillington Ings on 15th March with 500 the following day and between 200 and 300 during December. 150 at Eccup Res. on 1st January.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

The breeding colony on the Bempton cliffs (RSPB Reserve) was estimated to hold some 75,000 pairs whilst 1322 nests were counted on the Castle Hill at Scarborough. No other breeding records were received. As usual large numbers were frequently reported passing Flamborough with 39,000 on 17th June as the maximum whilst at Filey up to 1000 per hour were reported during March. 2200 were off Hornsea on 1st August; 1100 at Spurn on 22nd November. Reported on many occasions from the Humber at Sunk Island with 142 on 20th May; 122 on 27th May; 151 on 12th August with 144 on 26th. Further up the estuary, at Blacktoft, 43 were recorded on 17th May with eight on the 21st; 15 on 22nd October (most of these birds moving west). Inland in V.C. 63; four at Pugney's on 29th October with what were no doubt the same birds being reported from nearby Winterset Res. the same day. Two at Pugney's on 9th March; two at Potteric Carr on 27th April and two at Ardsley on 31st October, all other records concerned single birds being reported from Blackmoorfoot Res.; Wath Ings; Winterset Res.; Blacktoft; Aldwarke; Pugney's; Rother Valley C.P.; Potteric Carr and Worsbrough Res.

In V.C. 64, one at Fairburn Ings on 4th January after which spring passage in this V.C. occurred at three locations between 11th March and 10th June with some 30 individuals being recorded but never more than three in one day. In autumn a party of 14 at Swillington Ings on 25th July with five at Farnham on 27th August and six at Swillington Ings on 3rd September. Single birds were also reported from Fairburn Ings; Swillington Ings and Knotford Nook during autumn.

Two at Leighton Res., in V.C. 65, on 24th March with one at Masham G.P. on 6th April and one at Nosterfield on 31st August.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

One north offshore at Spurn on 31st May constituted the second record for the Observatory (RG, MGN).

An adult in summer plumage at Flamborough on 3rd July (JCL) with an adult there in winter plumage on 7th August (PAL). Both these records are still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

Single adult at Brandesburton on 2nd September (RG and Mrs L. M. Westoby) was undoubtedly the bird reported from Spurn the following day being the fifth record for the Observatory. (JMD, IDW). One briefly at Ardsley Res. on the evening of 23rd May (JM, MW, DW) is still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

The first reported was at Filey on 25th March after which birds were recorded at Pugney's (three) on the 27th and two north with four south on 28th at Howden Res. One passed Spurn on 1st April with one at Blacktoft the following day. By the second week of the month birds were quite widespread in small numbers both along the coast and inland with peak count at Flamborough of 68 on the 15th. Similar numbers were reported during May increasing in June particularly at Spurn where over 500 were recorded on nine days towards the end of the month with maximum of 820. 93 on 24th was the highest count at Flamborough. Numbers at Spurn were lower in July with no more than 300 being reported but higher at Flamborough with peak counts of 693 on 16th; 942 on 22nd; 615 on 23rd; 634 on 29th and 810 on the 30th. Hornsea also reported good numbers during this month with 122 on the 7th; 412 on 27th and 662 on 30th. Southerly passage along the coast reached a peak during August with, at Spurn, 641 on 17th; 560 on 20th; 440 on 23rd and 645 on 29th; at Flamborough; 645 were reported on 2nd with 1094 on 26th; 1044 on 27th and 807 on 29th; 524 passed Filey during a four hour period on the 3rd whilst at Hornsea 531 were reported on 8th; 431 on 13th and 406 on 14th. 600 at Spurn on 1st September with 715 at Flamborough on the 2nd and 285 on 8th while at Hornsea the highest count of this month fell on the 19th with 140. Very few in October with only Spurn reporting more than ten on any one day. The last birds being reported were two at Flamborough on 27th with only Spurn having birds in November where two were seen on the 1st and one on each of the 3rd and 9th.

Occasionally reported along the Humber in numbers with 226 on 12th August at Sunk Island and 144 west there on 26th.

Inland, in V.C. 63, excluding the birds mentioned above, three at Wath Ings on 23rd April with one at each of the following during spring; Blacktoft; Winterset Res.; Leeshaw Res. and Southfield Res. In autumn, 26 flew over Ardsley Res., in small parties, during the first few hours of 22nd September. Four at Pugney's on 8th September with one to two at Blacktoft; Worsbrough Res.; Thrybergh Res.; Sprotbrough Flash and Southfield Res. between mid July and late September. V.C. 64 reported one at Fairburn Ings on 24th April with two there on 19th June. One at Allerton Bywater on 2nd July followed by one at Swillington Ings on 10th August; two at Pool on 29th whilst Fairburn Ings had one on 21st July and six on 26th August.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

One at Flamborough on 3rd June with two there on 22nd. In July, single birds were recorded at that location on 3rd; 11th and 31st whilst two flew north at Bridlington on the 1st and two south at Hornsea on 30th. August saw more birds than usual at Spurn with two south on 9th; one on 12th; two on 16th one on the 17th and 18th; two on 19th with one on the 20th; two on 23rd and finally one on the 30th. Two at Filey on 11th; one at Hornsea on the 13th with another on the 20th and two east at Sunk Island on the 26th. Three at Flamborough on 9th September with a first year bird at Barmston on 9th October.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

The first of the year were inland with single birds at Southfield Res. on 1st April; Fairburn Ings and Thorpe Marsh on the 2nd; Fairburn Ings on the 3rd and 4th. Small numbers, usually one to three birds, at many inland locations during this month though five at Southfield Res. and 12 at Fairburn Ings on 27th. The first bird reported from the coast was at Spurn on the 30th though many birds at this location were not specifically identified. Spring passage was generally light though Fairburn Ings reported 12 on 21st May with 61 on 22nd and 13 the following day; Swillington Ings having 15 on the 21st, maxima on the coast being 25 at Flamborough on 7th with 12 at Hornsea on 25th. 77 *commic* terns were recorded at Spurn on the 27th whilst on 27th April 62 similarly described birds flew east past the Humber Bridge. Small numbers in June at all locations.

Breeding occurred inland at Fairburn Ings with two pairs and three young; Pugney's; one pair, one young; Farnham; one pair, three young and Swillington Ings with three pairs and six young. Pairs were also present at Staveley and Hay-a-Park.

Autumn passage along the coast was normal though very few at Filey; maxima at Flamborough in August being 556 on 18th; 885 on 19th and 405 on the 20th; at Hornsea; 273 on 19th; 341 on 20th; 371 on 21st and 249 on 30th. Smaller numbers at Flamborough in September with peaks of 131 on 1st and 120 on the 8th after which this species was scarce although the highest count at Hornsea was 215 on the 24th. Few in October with five at Hornsea on 7th; two on 8th then single birds there on the 9th; at Filey on the 10th; Flamborough on the 17th and 30th and Holmpton on 29th. The last at Spurn being on 5th November.

Small numbers inland in V.C. 63 with 24 west at Blacktoft on 1st August and 84 west on 25th; 14 at Winterset Res. on 19th with 19 on 22nd and 26th. 18 at Pugney's on 19th. 14 west at Winterset Res. on 8th September. V.C. 64 recorded 25 at Fairburn Ings on 24th July with 23 west there on 26th August. Late birds were reported from V.C. 63 at Thrybergh Res. on 28th October and Winterset Res. the following day.

Unidentified *commic* terns were reported from Spurn with up to 944 during mid August but 1000 on the 11th; 3223 on the 20th; 2100 on 23rd with 1352 on 30th. September here saw 548 on the 1st with 362 on 13th. Along the Humber *commic* terns were reported from Sunk Island on many occasions with 160 on 19th August; 220 on the 20th; 285 on 27th and 225 on 2nd September.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

The first was inland at Lock Lane, Castleford, on 2nd April whilst the first on the coast was reported from Filey on the 10th. Only small numbers during May and June increasing however towards mid July when 38 were reported at Flamborough on the 15th and 44 the following day. Only 812 were recorded at Flamborough during August with 98 on the 2nd and 235 on 5th whilst Hornsea reported 242 during the month with a peak of 24 on 10th. 117 flew south at Barmston on the 25th. Scarcer in September with 55 on 12th at Flamborough and very few at any other location.

Inland, Fairburn Ings had 232 pass east on 27th April and 22 on 10th September with Wheldrake Ings having 15 on 20th April and seven on the 27th. Very few birds reported at other locations during either migration periods.

The last bird reported inland was at Winterset Res. on 28th October with the last on the coast at Flamborough on 5th November following four the previous day.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Ten pairs laid eggs at Spurn but unfortunately all were taken by foxes. One pair laid (or relaid) at another part of the Observatory but after three weeks the eggs were washed out by an exceptionally high tide. The colony at Easington fared no better with at least 25 pairs present laying 32 clutches but owing to the ravages of foxes only one chick fledged.

The first bird of the year was reported from Spurn on 29th April where, with Easington, the largest numbers were recorded, Spurn having up to 50 birds present during most of May with numbers falling by mid June to less than ten. Small counts during July excepting the last few days when 32 were present on the 27th with 85 on 29th and 87 on 30th. Up to

34 during early August after which less than ten were recorded with the exception of 23 on 13th and 16 on 17th with the last bird seen on the 27th. The maximum count at Easington was 81 though no date given.

Away from this corner of Holderness, one to two birds were occasionally reported at Flamborough; Filey; Hornsea; Barmston and Sunk Island with three at Flamborough on 5th August; seven at Filey on 2nd August; three at Barmston on 15th May and four on 3rd June whilst at Sunk Island; three on 20th May; four on 21st May; three on 29th July; four on 5th August and three on the 12th.

Inland, in V.C. 63, single birds were reported from Southfield Res. on 6th and 8th May; at Winterset Res. on 10th May; Blacktoft on 2nd July; at the Rother Valley C.P. on 9th and Elland G.P. on the 13th. In V.C. 64, single birds at Swillington Ings on 7th May; Farnham on 11th May; Gouthwaite Res. on 30th June and Fairburn Ings on 27th August.

The last birds reported were on 9th September at Flamborough and Sunk Island.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

In May, four at both Blacktoft and Wombwell Ings on 4th; one at Spurn and Leeshaw Res. on the 6th with two at Spurn on the 7th. On the 8th, nine at Tophill Low Res.; nine at Ingbirchworth Res.; seven at Southfield Res.; two at Thrybergh Res.; 19 at Fairburn Ings of which 16 were later seen at Mickletown Ings and three at Swillington Ings with one at Potteric Carr and Wombwell Ings. Two at Winterset Res. on 9th with four at Mickletown and one at Fairburn Ings. No more until a second influx on 20th when six were at Spurn; five at Sunk Island; two at Fairburn Ings and one at Blacktoft and Bolton-on-Swale. The following day saw five at Spurn; ten at Tophill Low Res.; five at Winterset Res. and one at both Fairburn Ings and Hay-a-Park. Nine at Winterset Res. on 22nd with seven at Treeton Dyke Res.; three at Southfield Res.; six at Fairburn Ings and two at Wombwell Ings. Four at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd with three at Blacktoft whilst four were at Fairburn Ings on 25th. Single birds were reported in June and July from Hornsea Mere; Spurn; Thrybergh Res.; Winterset Res.; Pugney's; Blackmoorfoot Res.; Blacktoft; Broomhill Flash; Newburgh Park Lake and Bolton-on-Swale with two at Knotford Nook on 19th June.

Few reported in autumn with four south off Hornsea on both 20th and 25th August and one to two birds occasionally at Filey; Flamborough; Spurn; Hornsea Mere; Sunk Island; Fairburn Ings; Bolton-on-Swale; Winterset Res.; Pugney's; Blacktoft; Southfield Res. and Thrybergh Res.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

A count of the cliffs at Bempton gave c27,300 individuals against 29,300 in 1987 and 25,000 in 1986 though no comments on breeding success were received. 15,800 passed Flamborough on 25th March with 5200 on 26th; 3500 on 8th September and 2500 on 20th November.

Many counts from the coast were reported as *Auk sp* with, at Flamborough, 11500 on 8th January; 14,800 on 29th April; 13,500 on 8th October and 7050 on 25th November. Filey had up to 3000 per hour on 30th October whilst Hornsea recorded 2157 on 30th September; 1074 on 8th October with 1426 the following day, Spurn having 860 on 30th September and up to 600 occasionally during October.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

7350 individuals counted on the cliffs at Bempton but no indication of breeding success reported (RSPB). This compares with 7350 also in 1988 and 6000 in 1987. As with the previous species birds were not always specifically identified owing to distance but Flamborough recorded 23,000 on 28th September; 15,300 on 29th and 13,490 the following day; 5150 on 9th October and 7620 on the 10th.

One flew east at Stone Creek on 27th September.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

One north at Filey on 27th August (DB, SH, PW) with one north at Hornsea on 9th November and another north there on 20th (GRB).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

The only record during the early months was of one at Flamborough on 26th February.

In September, one at Spurn on the 10th with two on the 30th. Slightly more widespread in October with up to five reported from several locations but seven at Spurn on the 28th when 25 flew south at Holmpton and 18 at Flamborough. November saw the main passage with 161 north at Hornsea on 2nd; 19 at Spurn on 3rd; 16 at Hornsea on the 9th when 16 also flew east along the Humber at Saltend; on the 15th 27 north at Barmston with 163 at Hornsea, nine at Filey and 226 off Flamborough. 16 north at Barmston on 16th whilst on the 22nd 12 were off Hornsea with 14 the following day. Very few being seen after this date.

Inland, in V.C. 63, one grounded near the River Trent at Blacktoft on 9th November was released over the river flying off strongly; one at Bretton Park on the 13th left to the west whilst one was picked up at Tinsley and released at Wath on the 15th. One picked up in Headingley (Leeds) on the 13th was roosted overnight and released at Eccup Res.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

6000 individuals counted at Bempton; no details of breeding success reported though; comparing with counts of 6050 in 1987 and 5000 in 1986.

At Flamborough few during January/February but increasing in March with 1630 on 5th; 1950 on 25th and 2770 on 26th. Low counts in April, May and June, the maximum being 6500 on 24th June. Scarce in July with lower than usual peaks of 11,500 on 1st; 11,780 on 22nd; 8500 on 23rd and 5426 on 28th. Good numbers during early August with 10,650 on 1st; 7196 on 3rd; 13,090 on 4th and 6300 on the 5th after which 40 on the 13th with very few to the end of that month. More than usual in September with 38 on the 8th; 24 on 10th and 147 on 30th. 24 reported on 8th October with one to two occasionally in November and one on 8th December.

180 per hour passed Filey on 8th July with few birds reported elsewhere though 30 at Hornsea on 25th June and 13 on 30th September whilst 13 were seen at Spurn on 8th September.

One flew east along the Humber at Stone Creek on 29th October.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

An estimated 500 pairs breeding on the cliffs at Bempton whilst at Flamborough 1050 were counted on 28th January with 500 on the 12th February and 1400 on 5th November. Up to 100 reported on several occasions at Tophill Low Res.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

The largest parties reported were from the Wath area with up to 130 in January; 175 on 6th February; 200 on 22nd October and 80 on 31st December. 250 flew west at Eccup Res. on 24th January with 200 present on 25th and 100 also to the west there on 27th. 200+ at Wentworth on 21st January whilst 90 were at Strensall on 23rd January; 130 at Went Ings on 11th December and 100+ at Wilsic on 22nd March. Very few reported from the east of the county; 18 at Pulfen Bog on 26th November being by far the highest number recorded.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Widespread with many flocks of 1000 reported during the winter months. In V.C. 61, the roost at Hornsea Mere held an estimated 10,000 in January with 15000 in February and 7000 during November and December. 2400 at Patrington Haven in late December. No large flocks in V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63, 2000 were recorded at Blaxton on 4th January; up to 2000 at Wentbridge during the month and 4000 roosting at Wentworth on 22nd. 3700 at Wilsic on 1st March. South to southwesterly movement was reported in the Sheffield area during late October and early November; 6100 at Redmires Res. on 24th October; 5719 over Concorde Park on 1st November with 4074 there on 5th November when 3872 were counted passing over Redmires Res.

The largest concentrations in V.C. 64 were at Fairburn Ings with 1700 on 3rd January; 1600 on 8th January and 1700 moving south there on 5th November. 1700 at Bolton-on-Swale on 28th January.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Status in the east of the county would appear to be unchanged with few large gatherings reported; the maxima being 85 at Hunmanby on 20th February; 75 at Thorganby on 3rd October; 70 at Arram on 31st October and 60 at Pulfin Bog on 26th November. Several large gatherings in V.C. 63 with 304 in a pre roost party in Endcliffe Park (Sheffield) on 19th November; 200 at Hangthwaite on 15th November; 150 near Pontefract on 17th November and 100 in the Rother Valley C.P. on 30th December. Although good numbers breed in many areas of this V.C. it is still not making much impression on the Pennine areas or the western valleys.

No change in status reported from V.C. 64 with few large flocks, the largest being; 206 on 10th October and 160 on 10th September at Fairburn Ings with 163 at Bishop Monkton (no date). The mild early winter weather resulted in a bird brooding eggs at Hutton Conyers on 28th January.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

One at Barlow Common on 26th April was the earliest followed by one at Sunk Island on 29th then Grimston and Tudworth on the 30th. Widespread arrivals reported during the first week of May though in several locations passage was reported as low; the only places to report more than ten birds being Spurn and Flamborough.

Few reports of breeding in V.C. 61 away from the York area, likewise in V.C. 62. In V.C. 63 no change in status in the Halifax, Huddersfield and Bradford areas where it has always been scarce; reported as scarce in the Sheffield area, breeding at only four or five locations; apparently well distributed in the Doncaster area. V.C. 64 reported declining numbers even in the east where originally well distributed. No comments from V.C. 65. Notwithstanding this decline a flock of 44 at Wilsic on 12th September was exceptional. Few reported in late September but single birds at Spurn on 23rd and Flamborough on 30th whilst a very late bird was reported from Broomhill Flash on 30th October; there being only five later occurrences in Yorkshire.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

First of the year reported from Spofforth on 9th April then Wheldrake Ings and Spurn on the 12th. Widespread throughout all areas by 24th. Numbers apparently good with several locations reporting up to ten birds. Hepatic females being reported from Fairburn Ings; Wheldrake Ings and Tophill Low Res.

Departure from V.C. 64 was early but not noticeably so in other areas; the last bird being seen at Spurn on 2nd September.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Breeding confirmed at ten locations in V.C. 61 but single birds were reported from at least 40 locations mainly in Holderness or the York area. In V.C. 63 very few reported from the south and west but more widespread in the Doncaster and Pontefract areas with a marked increase in sightings at Blacktoft where successful breeding occurred. Still decreasing in V.C. 64 with breeding only proven at Barkston Ash and Clint. Very few sightings away from these areas with nearly half coming from one area. Regrettably the only statistic which does not decrease is the number killed by vehicles.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Remains scarce in the eastern part of V.C. 61 with the only suspected breeding occurrence being at Goxhill near Hornsea whilst in the York area was only proven to have bred at two locations against 13 in 1987, destruction of hedgerow habitat being cited as responsible in the Wheldrake area. Scarce in V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 bred at 18 locations

with probable breeding at a further 16. Considered to be both well distributed and under reported in this V.C.. No change in status in either V.C. 64 or 65.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Widespread in suitable habitat with no reported change in status. A bird of the grey morph was again reported from Tophill Low Res.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

The only breeding records in V.C. 61 were from Allerthorpe and Skipwith Commons. None reported from V.C. 62. An increase of reports from V.C. 63 with breeding occurring at three lowland locations, probably a fourth, and birds present at three upland locations. No confirmed breeding in V.C. 64 with none reported from V.C. 65.

Few at Spurn during the year with other coastal locations having few though seven were reported coming off the sea at Flamborough on 28th October.

Up to seven roosted at Flamborough in January; eight at Cowlam Bottoms during January and February with four in December; up to seven at Denaby in February and March; ten at Thorpe Marsh in March with ten at Eskeholme in December and five at Dinnington in December.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

A good year on the high ground of V.C. 64 with more breeding, or attempted breeding, than for many years though V.C. 65 reported a reasonable breeding season but numbers below that of 1988. V.C. 63 also reported good numbers breeding on the moorland areas. One to three birds were reported from many of these locations with five at Feldon ranges on 27th February; five at Staveley on 12th April; five at Midhope on 25th February and four at Bishop Monkton on 24th March.

An increase in coastal records with one to three at many locations whilst four were reported at Cayton Carrs on 25th November; at Flamborough on both 30th October and 12th November; at Filey on 12th November and Cherry Cobb on 22nd January. No immigration was reported.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

A full census of the main stronghold, Thorne Moors, revealed 44 churring males whilst 11 were recorded at Wykeham on 7th June; up to six at Wharnccliffe; nine on Skipwith Common and one at Cloughton.

Single birds were also reported from Flamborough on 22nd May; Hatfield Moors on 22nd May and 14th September; Bawtry Forest on 18th June and Blacktoft on 3rd August.

Addition to the 1988 Report: A survey of part of the Thorne Moors gave 36 males.

Swift *Apus apus*

Two at Hutton clay pits (V.C. 62) on 16th April were extremely early with the next being at Hornsea Mere on 23rd. Farnham; Fairburn Ings and Blackmoorfoot Res. all reported birds on the 24th with Otley; Winterset Res., Broomhill and Thrybergh Res. having their first the following day. 50 were at Fairburn Ings on the 26th with 22 at Hornsea Mere on 27th. Many locations reported birds before the end of the month.

Peak passage at Hornsea Mere occurred in May with 3720 on 11th; 4600 on 12th; 4800 on 13th then 4300 on 30th and 4200 on the 31st. 100 at Fairburn Ings on 25th May with 3000 on the 30th then 4000 on 31st; 1800 at Tophill Low Res. on 25th and 30th.

In June; 2300 at Flamborough on 25th when 20,000 passed Spurn with 5000 seen crossing the Humber from a ship in the estuary. 5000 at Spurn on 26th with 1700 at Tophill Low Res. on the 27th. Smaller counts in July though 4000 at Spurn on 26th; 2100 at Hornsea Mere on 9th; 2000 at Dunnington on 19th; 1700 at Tophill Low Res. on 1st and 1000 at Staveley on 29th.

Occasionally reported from the coast to late September then two at Atwick on 4th October and one at Thorpe Willoughby on the 8th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One at Hornsea Mere on 16th May (GAH) with another at Bampton on 17th June (MA & GH, AJY).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

The only definite breeding in V.C. 61 came from the York area with, at Bishopthorpe, two, possibly three, pairs; Bielby, one pair and the Lower Derwent, two pairs. Possible or probable breeding occurred at some 14 other locations with the population showing a healthy position after recent mild winters. In V.C. 62 bred at New Earswick; Benningborough; Hilla Green and along the River Leven. Probable breeding occurring at a few other locations. Still doing well in V.C. 63 with seven pairs in the Sheffield area; nine near Huddersfield; two to four in the Bradford/Halifax areas with one in each of the Doncaster and Barnsley areas. A good population in V.C. 64 particularly around Leeds where at least 12 pairs bred whilst in V.C. 65 this species is said to be increasing.

Birds were reported throughout the year from many, widespread locations; usually one to three being involved but six at Hutton clay pits (V.C. 62) on 16th June; six at Tophill Low Res. (three juveniles) on 29th July and nine to ten occasionally along the River Ouse near Bishopthorpe.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus*

A single bird at Cowden, V.C. 61, from 8th to the 10th July had possibly been in the area since 25th June. This was the first record for Yorkshire and the sixth for Britain (WTA, GRB).

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

One to the west along the River Ouse at Blacktoft on 31st May (CF) has not yet been submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Single birds in April at Lund on the 8th (PD); Troutsdale on the 9th and 10th (AJW); Halsham also on the 10th (per SM) and near Filey on the 17th (MGR). One at Spurn on both the 22nd and 23rd May (BRS).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Singles at Spurn on 22nd; 23rd and 25th April were the only birds reported in spring. In August, two at Spurn on 27th with one on the 30th and 31st. Reported in September from Whitby on 2nd/3rd; from Flamborough on the 10th with three on the 13th; from Filey on 12th; Kilnsea on the 17th; at Spurn, two on 9th with one on the 10th; 11th and 12th; three on the 13th with one on the 16th. In October one at Holmpton on the 28th.

Inland single birds were reported at Allerthorpe Common on 9th September and Thorpe Willoughby on the 11th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Two or three pairs bred at Skipwith Common after two blank years, this being the only definite breeding occurrence in V.C. 61 though birds were present at Burnby; North Grimston; Wharram; Scampston; Londesborough; Garroby; Nunburnholme; Allerthorpe and Duggleby. One at Tophill Low Res. on 25th June was the only record from the east of this V.C. Reported in V.C. 62 from many locations along the edge of the North York Moors though definite breeding was not reported. In V.C. 63, considered to have bred at six areas near Huddersfield and at three locations near both Doncaster and Sheffield. Thought to be on the increase in the south and centre of V.C. 64 with breeding at six locations and probably at a further five. Reported in V.C. 65 from Brignall Banks; Richmond/West Applegarth; Feldom; Reeth; Upper Swaledale and Arkengarthdale though no breeding records reported.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Comments received did not indicate any change in status. Occasionally reported at Spurn with single birds seen coming in off the sea at Filey thus indicating some immigration.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Bred at Wheldrake, being the only confirmed occurrence in V.C. 61, though probably bred at Nunburnholme and was present during the breeding season at Scampston. Scarce in this V.C. though a pair were reported from Hornsea Mere on 15th January. In V.C. 62 breeding occurred at Brandsby and Old Haxby with very few records from other areas of this V.C.

Reported from 30 locations in V.C. 63 with breeding confirmed at four near Doncaster; three near Huddersfield; three near Sheffield; five near Bradford and one near Barnsley. Proven breeding at four locations in V.C. 64 with probable breeding at a further three. Reported from 39 locations usually one bird but three at Knotford Nook on 1st January and six in Fell Wood, Gilstead on 14th February. Reported from V.C. 65 at Bolton-on-Swale; Whitcliffe and Jervaulx Park.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

One at Spurn on 1st October constituted the tenth record for the Observatory although the record was not accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Single birds were reported from Holmpton on 27th October (SLJ) and Filey on 12th November (DJW *et al*).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Apparently no change in breeding status. Flocks reported during the early months were 250 at East Cottingwith on 16th January; 440 at Flamborough on 21st January; 145 at Wilsic on 26th February and 107 at Wath on 11th March. Little movement reported during these early months.

In autumn light passage along the coast with, at Flamborough, 450 on 4th October, 350 on the 12th and 300 on the 28th. On this last date 285 were reported coming in off the sea at Filey. Southerly passage at Spurn with 525 on 10th October and 163 on 5th November. Small numbers moving along the Humber with 137 to the east on 29th October and 84 east on 12th November as maxima.

Only light movement reported inland with maxima reported being 245 southwest at Fairburn Ings on 25th September; 110 southwest at Blacktoft on 29th October; 140 south at Thrybergh Res. on 30th October whilst Redmires Res. reported 152 southwest on 23rd.

Few winter flocks with 220 at Wadworth on 11th October; up to 200 on several days at Flamborough during November.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

In V.C. 62; four at Long Nab on 9th November; four again there on 16th November with seven on 7th December. V.C. 61 reported single birds at Flamborough on 16th September and 17th November whilst at Filey one was recorded on 28th October. Reported from Easington with two on 18th March then two regularly from 8th April to 8th May. During the latter months, four flew south there on 27th October also being reported from Spurn that same day. Single birds south at Spurn on 29th and 30th. In the Easington Lagoons/Kilnsea Ponds area up to five were present from 2nd to 18th November with six on the 16th then three from 9th December to the end of the year.

One inland at Fairburn Ings on 5th November.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The first of the year was reported from Bolton-on-Swale on 11th March with an influx on 12th when birds were reported from that same location with five; Fairburn Ings with four; three near Castleford and at Low Moor; two at Staveley and one at Thrybergh Res.;

Blackmoorfoot Res.; Knotford Nook; Sunk Island and Hornsea Mere. A large influx towards the end of the month with up to 200 at Tophill Low Res.; 400 at Wheldrake Ings on the 30th; 300 at Blacktoft on the 27th; 400 at Winterset Res. on 31st; 1000 at Fairburn Ings on 28th with 450 on the 29th and 30th; 200 at Farnham on 29th and 350 at Bolton-on-Swale on the 31st. Numbers continued high into early April when 400 were reported at Blacktoft and 1000 at Thrybergh Res. on the 1st and 510+ at Winterset Res. on the 2nd. Many other locations had 50 to 100 birds during this period. Hornsea Mere reported peak counts during May with 1600 on 11th; 1850 on the 12th and 2100 on 13th whilst nearby Tophill Low Res. had 1700 on 12th and 2300 on 25th.

All areas reported high breeding numbers with good success.

The good breeding season resulted in post breeding roosts of 3000 at Fairburn Ings on 31st August with similar counts on 1st and 6th September; 1000 at Staveley on 18th July; 1350 at Hornsea Mere on 23rd August with 1200 the following day. 1000 at Wheldrake Ings on 31st July; 1200 at Bolton-on-Swale on 7th July; 1500 at Blacktoft on 10th August with 2000 there on the 28th.

Peak southerly passage occurred at Spurn on 20th August with 743 recorded. Most birds had departed by mid September; late records being singles at Hay-a-Park on 1st October; Winterset Res. on 8th October and Filey on 4th November. Leucistic birds were reported during the year from Bolton-on-Swale and Pool.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A bird at York Water Works on 6th March (TC) constituted the earliest ever reported in Yorkshire (10th March 1959 at Elland being the previous earliest). One was at Hutton (V.C. 62) on 7th (JMR) with one at Fairburn on the 12th. No more were reported until the 25th when one was at Swillington Ings followed by birds at Pugney's and Fairburn Ings on the 26th and on 27th at Fairburn Ings again, Blacktoft and Filey Brigg. The main arrival was then protracted with some not arriving until June resulting in conflicting reports. Maximum at Fairburn Ings being low with 200 on 3rd June, 400 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 12th May whilst 2200 passed south at Spurn on 21st May when 3000 were recorded at Flamborough (a record count for spring there). 2300 at Hornsea Mere on 11th May and 2600 on 12th but only 340 at nearby Tophill Low Res. that day.

It would appear to have had a good breeding season though survey work done in the Sheffield area indicated that populations were still low.

Autumnal gatherings reported were low in V.C. 61 and V.C. 62. In V.C. 63, during August, 2000 at Blacktoft on 22nd; 10,000 at Worsborough on 16th and 3000 at Little Broomhill whilst in V.C. 64, 5000 were reported from Staveley on 22nd; 1000 at Swillington Ings on 31st and 1000 at Carlton Marsh on 21st. 4500 at Potteric Carr on 18th September; 1300 flying southwest over Redmires Res. on 21st September whilst at Spurn 2500 flew south on 30th August and 2000 on 13th September with 1574 on the 25th. Passage along the Humber was noted at Sunk Island with 761 to the west on 5th August; 1049 on 19th and 938 west and 69 east on the 28th.

Quite widespread in small numbers during October with birds reported into November from Hornsea Mere and Spurn on the 1st; Rossington; Spurn and Sunk Island on the 3rd; Holmpton on 4th; Hornsea on 7th and finally Holmpton on the 11th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

One at Bradley Gate, Huddersfield on 2nd May (JER) whilst one at Flamborough on 15th April (DGH) is still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Two very early birds at Fairburn Ings on 12th March being the earliest reported in Yorkshire this century (the only earlier record being on 6th March 1879 in Wensleydale). The next one was also at Fairburn Ings on the 24th with other March records coming from Hornsea Mere and the Rother Valley C.P. on the 27th; Worsbrough Res. on the 28th and Broomhill Flash on the 30th. Despite these exceptionally early records the main arrival did not occur until early May with coastal areas not reporting birds until the end of April

(Spurn, 30th; Flamborough 30th and Filey 29th). Heavy coastal passage occurred in late May with on the 21st, 2700 at Flamborough (a record spring total for that location) and 1500 at Spurn; 400 at Flamborough on the 22nd; 900 at Spurn on 23rd with 500 at Flamborough on both the 26th and 28th. Large concentrations were also reported during this month at Hornsea Mere with 350 on the 13th; at Pugney's on 23rd with 200; Wintersett Res. with 300 and Tophill Low Res. with 200 on 25th; Pulfin Bog with 250 on the 30th when 400 were at Fairburn Ings. In June up to 800 at Fairburn Ings during the first days of the month whilst Pugney's had 400 on the 21st.

Breeding was apparently good.

Autumnal gatherings reported were 1000+ at Bessacarr during late August and early September; 750 at Wilsic on 12th September; 500 at Sprotbrough Flash on 12th/13th September; 500+ at Grenoside on the 7th September with up to 450 at Fairburn Ings during the first two weeks of the month.

Coastal passage at Spurn was heavy during September with 1050 on 4th; 1000+ on the 16th; 5713 on the 19th; 12,550 on 23rd (a record daily count for the Observatory) and 3070 on the 25th. At Flamborough 1100 on 29th July; 1200 on 20th August but only small numbers in September though 500 on 17th and 800 on the 23rd. Inland, 450 flew southwest over Redmires Res. on 21st September.

Late birds were reported in November from Spurn on the 2nd; 3rd; 4th and 5th; Hornsea on the 2nd and 7th; Filey on the 4th and inland from Otley on the 9th and Fairburn Ings on the 18th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Inland one was reported from Tophill Low Res. on 9th April (RL) and one in Concord Park, Sheffield on 17th September (JPS) with the only coastal record being at Spurn on 27th October.

Addition to the 1988 Report: One at Barmston on 23rd; 26th and 27th October (PP).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Two at Flamborough on 28th March (PAL) with one at Spurn on 7th October (SLJ) possibly being present from the 4th.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One at Flamborough on 26th March was the earliest ever reported from that location. One in the Rother Valley C.P. on 7th April with four at Bolton Bridge, two in Melton Wood and single birds at the Rother Valley C.P.; Eccup Res. and Spurn on the 9th. Rather a slow arrival in April with birds more widespread in the first week of May. Some largish concentrations in V.C. 63 with 15+ at Wharnccliffe Wood on 1st May; 15 in Deffer Wood on 2nd May and 17 in Wadworth Wood on 3rd June.

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged.

Small numbers reported during the autumn passage with seven at Spurn on 12th August with six there on 28th. 17 southwest over Redmires Res. on 19th August when five were at Ardsley Res. One to three birds being reported from many locations.

Last birds were at Spurn and Flamborough on 23rd September; Gouthwaite Res. and Concord Park, Sheffield, on 24th whilst one flew south at Spurn on 11th October (call only).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

No large parties reported during January and February. Northerly passage occurred in late March with 120 at Flamborough on 26th and 350 on 31st whilst at Spurn 163 were recorded on the 28th. Up to 100 at several moorland locations in V.C. 63 by the end of this month.

No comments received concerning breeding status thus assumed to be unchanged.

Heavy passage was reported in September with Spurn recording 8000 to the south on 13th and 5183 on the 21st. At Flamborough 1300 passed south on the 17th with 600 on the 27th. Inland, at Redmires Res., 5670 flew southwest in three hours on the 21st; 3740 on

24th and 1120 in 30 minutes before rain on the 25th. 753 southwest over Concord Park, Sheffield, on 23rd; 830 over Fairburn Ings on this same date with 390 over Ardsley Res. on 21st and 297 on the 24th. Light westerly passage along the Humber at Sunk Island during this period with 198 on 16th and 231 on the 23rd.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

No change in status at Filey otherwise no comments received. Up to 28 were present at Flamborough during January with 30 on 13th August and 31st October. 15 at Filey on 30th October. Small numbers south of Bridlington though ten at Spurn on 14th and 15th October and 12 on the 25th. Passage was noted here in October with 37 south on the 18th whilst along the Humber at Sunk Island 13 were present on 12th February with 16 west there on 15th October and 11 west on 21st.

Inland in V.C. 63, one to two at Pugney's in spring and at Blacktoft from 1st January to 2nd March. One to two at Blacktoft from late October to the end of the year. Single birds during the period September to December occasionally at Wath; Winterset Res.; Thrybergh Res.; Blackmoorfoot Res.; Worsbrough Res. and Southfield Res..

In V.C. 64, two at Swillington Ings on 3rd April with three on 8th. One to two birds at four locations during the latter months.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.p.littoralis* were reported in spring, from on the coast, Flamborough, Hornsea and Barmston, with two at Hornsea on 18th March; four on 19th and 20th and three on the 27th. At Barmston, four were present from 10th October to late November. Inland, one was at Wheldrake Ings on 4th April and two at Lemonroyd S.F. on 12th November.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

In V.C. 61, single birds were present at Hornsea Mere on 18th March; 18th, 23rd and 24th April; at Wheldrake Ings from 1st to 8th April; at Filey on 30th October and Brough Haven on 8th December.

In V.C. 63, at Blacktoft, one frequently from 1st January to 23rd March; two being present on 28th February. One again from 31st October to 6th December. One in Pontefract Park on 2nd April; at Fryston on 25th March and Aldwarke S.F. on 9th and 10th April.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

One at Burniston on 21st February could well have been an over wintering bird. The first migrant arrived at Winterset Res. on 29th March followed by one at nearby Pugney's on the 30th then Tophill Low Res.; Broomhill Flash and Otley on the 31st. Spring Passage was generally light with 41 at Bolton-on-Swale on 21st April; 33 at Hornsea Mere on 25th when 30 were at Winterset Res.; 43 at Broomhill on 27th; 54 at Flamborough on the 30th when 44 were at Spurn with 52 and 82 respectively the following day and 95 at Blacktoft.

Considered to have had a good breeding season in V.C. 64 although in V.C. 63 reported as scarcer in the vicinity of Sheffield than during the period 1975-80. Also considered to be scarcer than last year in the Driffeld area of V.C. 61.

Peak counts during the autumn were 221 at Wath on 22nd August; 108 at Spurn (south) on 22nd; 95 at Blacktoft on 26th July and 15th August; 80 at Fairburn Ings on 13th September and 70 at Winterset Res. during August and at Fairburn Ings on 5th and 6th August. Along the Humber, westerly passage was reported from Sunk Island with 65 on 30th July; 42 on 12th August and 45 on 19th. The last birds of the year were at Stockton-on-Forest on 31st October and at Spurn on 4th November.

Birds of the nominate race *M.f.flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail) were reported from Pulfen Bog; where a female was paired with a male of the British race *M.f.flavissima* and probably bred; at Filey with four birds; Flamborough with 15; Hornsea Mere with 11; Tophill Low Res. 'one to two birds, late April to early May'; Spurn with six and one each at North Duffield Carrs; Blacktoft and Wombwell Ings.

Individuals showing dark ear coverts and forehead with a greyish rear crown considered to belong to the race *M.f.thunbergi* (Grey-headed Wagtail) were reported from Spurn on

27th and 28th May; at Flamborough on 13th; 21st; 29th May and 3rd/4th June with four present on 20th May and two on the 25th.

An individual with a pale grey head, whitish throat and full supercillium, considered to belong to the race *M.f.beema* (Syke's Wagtail) was reported from Filey Dams on 17th April.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Bred in V.C. 61 at Tophill Low Res.; along the Pocklington Canal and at Wintringham. Quite well distributed in this V.C. during the winter months though normally only one to two birds at all locations but six south at Spurn on 16th September and five south there on 23rd. Four at Flamborough on 29th October. No change in status reported from V.C. 62. Reported from V.C. 63 as 'widespread records of breeding in Sheffield, Huddersfield, Halifax and Bradford areas including lowland and relatively built up/industrial locations'. Small numbers moving into the eastern lowland (non breeding areas) in winter. 15 flying southwest over Redmires Res. on 21st September.

No change in status in the upland areas of V.C. 64 but definitely increasing as a breeding bird in the Leeds area. Away from these areas, seven at Fairburn Ings on 15th September whilst eight were present on 23rd with 11 at Pool Paper Mills on the 23rd July. No change in status reported from V.C. 65.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

No change in breeding status reported. Winter gatherings reported were 600 roosting in the extractors of the coke ovens at Grimethorpe Coalite Plant during late February and early March; 200 at Bolton-on-Swale on 15th March; 127 at Naburn S.W. on 27th December with 120 in the Harrogate Library gardens on 30th October; 103 at a Halifax factory on 14th March and 100+ at Sheepscar (Leeds) on 24th November.

Moderate passage noted at Flamborough with up to 40 in March and 70 in early September though 100 there on 5th July.

Birds of the nominate race *M.a.alba* (White Wagtail) were reported from many localities, usually in small numbers but 20 at Winterset Res. on 26th April; 11 at Hornsea Mere on 22nd April with 14 on 23rd and 12 on 24th.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Few in V.C. 61 with single birds at Filey on 22nd January; Flamborough on 29th March; Spurn on the 16th April. In the York area 35 were in the city on 28th January; 23 on 12th and 19th February with smaller numbers at several other locations in York O.S. reporting area.

In V.C. 62; 30 at Pickering on 3rd February; 23 at Cayton on 11th February; up to 70 in Scarborough town centre during March with 20 at Scalby on the 8th.

Widespread in V.C. 63 during the early months with, in the Sheffield area, five parties of; up to 47; 24; up to 39; up to 20 and up to 79 whilst one to 17 were reported from three other locations. 55 at Bradley (near Huddersfield) on 19th April; 58 to 69 at Ossett between 3rd and 17th April. In the Bradford area nine flocks were reported comprising; up to 36, 20; 21; up to 45; 19; up to 60 though generally 30+; 23 and two of ten each. One to nine at 12 other locations in this V.C..

V.C. 64 had many flocks, mainly in the Leeds area; birds being reported from 19 locations. Peak counts were 105 at Woodhall Hills, Pudsey on 4th January with 103 on 24th; 81 at Holt Park on 2nd March and 94 at Eccup on 4th March with 84 still present in the area on 3rd April. Away from the Leeds area; 23 at Knotford Nook on 8th January; 21 at Apperley Bridge on 8th March; up to 36 at Otley in mid March; 30 near Baildon on 8th April; 18 at Knaresborough on 31st March whilst up to 12 were reported from a further 11 locations.

During the latter months; two at Harrogate on 28th December; two at Northstead Manor on 25th October with single birds at Leeds on 31st December and Barnby Dun on 3rd.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

'Widespread' and 'well distributed' in all the higher areas with no change of status but an increase in breeding numbers in the lowland areas of Harrogate and Leeds. One on Peasholme Park, Scarborough on 24th September.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

An increase noted in many areas due to recent mild winters. Some indication of passage at both Spurn and Flamborough in October and November.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Status showing a little increase owing to mild winters. A long term decrease noted at Malham Tarn where only three pairs were noted compared with 24 during 1966/67.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

If anything a slight increase in status with post breeding numbers indicating a good season. Only light passage noted along the coast with 65 at Flamborough on 13th September and at Spurn 80 on the 12th. 53 in Roundhay Park, Leeds, on 10th August.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Singles in spring at Flamborough on 29th April; at Spurn on 30th April and 2nd May whilst one was singing at Thorpe Marsh on 13th May. Singing birds were reported on Thorne Moors at Pony Bridge and Inkle Moor.

Addition to earlier Reports: Recorded from Thorne Moors with five singing males in 1985; up to 15 singing during 1987-88. One on 19th April 1987 being the earliest arrival in this area.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Single female at Kilnsea Beacon Lane on 20th May whilst at Flamborough singles were reported on 19th; 20th; 27th and 29th May and in autumn on 14th and 17th September.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Three pairs bred in the Sheffield area; two being in the industrial area of the Little Don valley and one (two broods) in an urban area. Two males and a female at the York Carriage Works from 12th May to 26th July.

Other inland records were from Fairburn Ings on 1st April; Sherburn-in-Elmet on 5th/6th April; near Barnsley on 6th May; Deer Hill Res. on 19th July; near Bingley on 23rd August and Winterset Res. on 15th/16th October.

Along the coast small numbers at Spurn during March and April and again occasionally during the period August to November with five on 27th; 28th and 30th August. At Flamborough, a similar spread of records with six on 30th October. One to two occasionally at Hornsea; Holmpton; Grimston; Sandsend; Filey; Barmston and Scarborough.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The first of the year was a very early bird at Thorpe Marsh on 28th March, being the earliest ever arrival in Yorkshire, the next being two males at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd April with either one of these two birds or a new arrival being present there on the 9th when birds were also reported at Otley; Hawksworth and near High Batts N.R. Most locations towards the west of the county reported arrivals between the 14th and 20th with those on the coast being a week later. Spring passage was light with nowhere reporting double figures.

No comments were received concerning breeding status.

A large influx along the coast in mid September with, at Spurn, 100 on the 12th (the highest count for many years); at Flamborough 105 on the 12th; 90 on the 13th; 40 on 14th and 57 on 16th. Filey reported 27 on the 13th with 15 at Holmpton on the 16th. Most birds had departed by the end of September with a few lingering into October when single birds

were at Flamborough on 5th and 9th; at Spurn on 11th and 12th with a very late bird at Hinde House School, Sheffield on 4th November.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Two exceptionally early records; one at Fairburn Ings on 26th March being the earliest ever reported in Yorkshire (28th March 1906 at Redcar being the previous earliest), with a pair at Upper Barden Res. on the 29th. The next, and more typical date, was on 22nd April in the Little Don valley with one at Fairburn Ings; near Bradford and Winterset Res. on 28th and at Wath and Spurn on the 29th. Spring passage was light with 13 at Flamborough on 9th May and ten on the 16th; no other location reporting more than five birds.

There would appear to be no change in the breeding status of this species although V.C. 64 commented that it is now confined to the higher ground and moorland edges hinting at range contraction in recent years.

20+ were reported from the Upper Barden Res. on 1st July whilst numbers along the coast in autumn were the highest for many years with up to 30 at Spurn during late August but 68 on the 31st whilst Flamborough had 33 on the 20th. An influx in mid September, particularly at Flamborough, with 20 on the 11th; 90 on 12th when 28 were reported from Filey and eight at Grimston; 65 at Flamborough on the 13th, Spurn having up to 33 during this period. A second influx on the 23rd when Spurn recorded 44 and Flamborough 59.

Inland, 12 at Winterset Res. on 26th August; ten at Fairburn Ings in late August with 12 there on 16th September and ten again until the 24th.

Reported from several locations in October with the latest being at Thrybergh Res. on 27th October; Angler's Lake from 31st October until 5th November and in Pontefract Park from 9th to 11th December.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Quite regular at Spurn until late April and again from mid September to the end of the year. Single birds reported during the early months excepting two on 10th/11th March and three on 26th. Far more numerous in the latter months with three on 16th September, two or three towards the end of that month then up to five throughout October though eight on the 1st; six to eight from the 11th to 19th and six on the 27th; up to five during the first half of November, up to four during the latter half and then up to three in December.

A single bird there on 26th March showed features of the Continental race *S.t.rubicola*. Occasionally reported elsewhere along the coast; usually single birds but two at Grimston on 7th October with three on 16th and at Flamborough; three on 30th September and 1st October then up to two during the last week of October.

An increase in wintering records from V.C. 63 with one to two birds at ten upland and six lowland locations in March. One at Thorpe Marsh on 7th April with one near Sheffield on 14th May. In the latter months one to two at 12 upland and five lowland locations from 23rd September but four on Howden Moor on 9th October.

An exceptional number of records in V.C. 64 with nine records of one to two birds at nine locations during the early months and during the latter part of the year one to two birds on 18 occasions at 12 locations.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Several early records with the first at Hutton (V.C. 62) on the 4th March followed by single birds at East Newton and Edderthorpe on 7th; at Meltham on 10th; Cragg Vale; Denholme and Oxenhope on the 11th with records coming from Redmires Res. and Midhope on the 12th. Birds were widespread by late March with 34 at Spurn on 27th and 24 on 29th whilst Flamborough had 22 on 28th and 27 on 31st. 39 were at this latter location on 1st May with 32 on the 2nd.

Breeding status reported as unchanged with success in V.C. 63 being possibly above average.

Autumn passage was light with the only counts of note in August being 45 at Flamborough on 25th and 32 at Spurn on 23rd and 39 on the 25th. Birds occasionally lingered to late October with the last reported on 5th November at Flamborough.

Birds considered to belong to the Greenland race *O.o. leucorrhoa* were reported from Flamborough; Ingbirchworth Res.; Broadstones; Leeshaw; Treeton Dyke; Farnham and Stubbing Moor, usually involving one or two birds but three at Flamborough on 14th May with 19 there on the 16th.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

A single male at Burnstone from 26th to 30th November (PH, DP, Mrs DMW). The sixth record for Yorkshire.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

A male at Baitings Res. on 12th March was the first reported followed by one at Malham Tarn on the 14th then two at Fairburn Ings on 18th. An influx in mid April, particularly along the coast with 15 at Spurn on the 18th when nine were at nearby Kilnsea with four at Filey and two on the Humber at Sunk Island. 16 at Digley on the 19th.

Breeding status was reported as unchanged.

Light autumnal passage with maxima of two at Spurn; eight at Flamborough, on 29th October with four on the 31st and five at Filey on 28th. Birds lingered into November with three in the Upper Derwent valley on the 5th and one at Flamborough on the 19th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

The mild, early winter weather resulted in some early breeding with a fledgling being reported in Harrogate on 20th January. Very few flocks in the early months though 120 in the Rossington/Mount Pleasant area (near Doncaster) on 31st January.

No comments received concerning the breeding status.

The only immigration reported in autumn was at Flamborough and Spurn with at the former 1100 on 29th October and 1600 on the 31st whilst the latter had 240 31st October and 400 on 7th November. Inland some indication of an influx was shown by 260 being present at Fairburn Ings on 18th November and 130 there on 2nd December. 118 at Worsbrough on 25th November and 111 at Thrybergh on 2nd December.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*

A first year male frequented a garden in Knaresborough from 1st to 8th January (R & Mrs S. J. Evison). The second record for Yorkshire.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Flocks during January were generally low excepting 700 at Midhope; 600 at Thorpe Marsh; 500 at Ingbirchworth and 400 at Hornsea Mere. A similar situation during February, though 1000 at Thornton Steward on the 26th, and into March with high counts of 1900 at Broomhead on 11th; 900 on Hatfield Moors on that same date and 1750 at Redmires on 31st. Spring passage in April produced 1200 at Beckwithshaw on 21st; 1000 at Yarnbury on 8th; between 1000 and 1500 at Timble during the latter part of the month; 1000 at Broomhead until 12th and 1250 at Winterset on the 7th. Occasional birds at several locations to late May though an individual summered at Tophill Low Res. being reported from 23rd to 25th June and again on the 6th and 16th to 18th August.

In autumn, on the coast, an influx noted on 15th October with 800+ at Spurn and 400 at Flamborough; another on the 27th when 1500 were reported from Spurn with 3000 at Flamborough on both 29th and 31st. 400 flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 28th with 1370 on the 29th. This immigration was echoed in V.C. 63 with, on the 28th. 1049 west at Redmires Res.; on 29th; 1043 at Redmires; 620 at Wath; 1475 over Pugney's and 1750 roosting at Broomhead with 730 at Winterset.

In early November; 2000+ were recorded at West End (V.C. 64) and 2147 southwest at Strines Res. Other notable counts in this month were 2000 west along the Little Don valley on the 22nd; 1700 in the Langsett area on the 25th and 1000 at Wheldrake on 15th. Large

concentrations in December were; 1000 in the Idle valley from mid month; 1000 at Ingbirchworth at the end of the month; 2950 west at Wath on the 17th; 1500 at East Keswick on 29th when 1000 were at Acklam.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged.

Only small numbers reported during the early winter months with 40+ at Rossington/ Mount Pleasant (near Doncaster) on 31st January being the maximum recorded. With the exception of Flamborough, few were reported in the autumn; here 150 were counted on 12th September and 90 on the 13th; 100 on 4th October with 300 on the 20th; 750 on 29th and 300 on 31st. 40 at Filey on 28th October being the next highest gathering reported.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

200 at Bretton 17th February was the largest gathering until spring build up during March when 600 were reported from Arthington on 4th and 350 at Knotford Nook on the 11th. Birds had left most areas by mid April though stragglers were reported from many locations into early May with one at Dowley Gap on 18th and daily at Flamborough until the 24th.

The first of the autumn were two at Flamborough on 10th September followed by five at Spurn on the 16th. Most areas reported their first birds during late September or early October with a large influx being recorded during the middle of that latter month when 1500 were reported from Flamborough on 15th with 1800 at Spurn; 250 at Filey on the same date and 874 flying west at Pulfin Bog. Normal numbers then until the end of the month when 2000 were reported at Spurn on the 27th with 600 at Flamborough; 4000 at Flamborough on the 29th with 650 on 30th and 3700 on 31st when 1200 passed Spurn. 920 were seen at Beverley on this last date. Inland these movements were also noted with, on the 15th, 1200 flying west at High Batts N.R.; 1080 west at Redmires Res. and 2400 west over Tinsley Park. At the end of the month; 1000+ west at High Batts N.R. on 28th with 1572 west at Redmires Res. and 504 south at Wath. On 29th, 710 west over Swillington Ings; 900 at Silkstone and 835 west at Carter Knowle. 1170 flew west at Blacktoft on 31st when 3130 flew west southwest over Strines in one hour. On the 1st November, 4185 flew west in one hour at Strines with 500 west along the Little Don valley. 1845 west at Strines on 4th November. Few large parties were reported after this date though 800 were at High Batts N.R. on 18th November with 700 west at Wath on 17th December; 650 at Wilsic on 28th December and 400 at Rivelin Res. on the 17th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

No comments received that would indicate a change in status. Scarce in V.C. 61 with only Tophill Low Res. reporting more than ten birds. The only party of more than 20 recorded during the first part of the year was of 60+ at Gouthwaite on 5th May otherwise flocks were not reported until August when 92 were counted in a loose party at Sleightholmedale on 18th; 75+ at Idle (Bradford) on 11th; 60 at Ringing Low on 22nd with 40+ at both Malham Tarn on 13th and Pontefract Park on 10th. 42 at Bretton Park on 11th September with 48 at Rossington Hall on 1st November.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*

One at Mapleton on 15th September was observed at ranges down to three feet. (WFC) The first record for Yorkshire though still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rareities Committee.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

One singing at Blacktoft on 30th March is the earliest ever recorded in Yorkshire whilst another was at Pot Hills Marsh, Upton the following day. The next was reported from Blacktoft on 16th April with most locations reporting birds from 20th to the end of the month. From comments received this must have been one of the best breeding years on record with 19 singing males at Cowden; 12 singing males at Blacktoft; four males on

Thorne Moors on 10th June (no further info); two at Brampton Common; up to seven males at Winterset Res.; up to three at Wath; up to three at Carlton Marsh; up to five at Hornsea Mere; two at Tophill Low Res.; up to 12 at Bishop Monkton Ings where at least four pairs bred; with probable breeding occurring at a further 11 locations. Few birds were reported into September though the last to be reported was at Flamborough on 3rd October.

River Warbler *Locustella fluvialis*

A singing male trapped at Flamborough on 29th May (MN, PJW, PAL, DGH, JMP *et al*). The second record for Yorkshire.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

One in full song, seen briefly, at Blacktoft on 25th April with another bird there in full song from 23rd May to 5th July (AG *et al*).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

First reported was at Blacktoft on 11th April with the next at Tophill Low Res. on 14th then at High Batts N.R. on the 16th. Despite a report from the Drifffield area of V.C. 61 indicating a reduction in numbers from 1988 most areas reported a good year with 80 singing males at Blacktoft and at least 65 at Tophill Low Res.; 46 territories at Fairburn Ings; 50 singing males at Wheldrake Ings; 26 singing males at both Swillington Ings and Mickletown Ings with 31 in the Wath area. Continues to colonise fields of oil seed rape, particularly in Holderness.

Little visible passage both in spring and autumn with the last birds of the year being reported from Spurn and Flamborough on 23rd September; Pugney's on the 26th and at Blacktoft on the 29th.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

A singing male was located between the two lakes at Winterset on 18th June where it remained until the 21st. A second singing bird was located nearby on the 19th though not seen on subsequent days. Both birds were trapped and ringed (PS *et al*).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Considered to be a slight decrease in the numbers at Tophill Low Res. to 23 breeding pairs otherwise no comments were received from other locations. One pair at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough thus maintaining its status as the most northerly breeding location in Yorkshire. One to two pairs bred at Flamborough; no census at Hornsea Mere; about 405 pairs at Blacktoft with moderate breeding success; over 40 pairs at Potteric Carr; 20+ pairs along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal; 21 pairs at Winterset (the highest ever here including three in fields of oil seed rape); 11 pairs at Wath; 12 singing males at Carlton Marsh; nine at Pugney's with a few at a further ten locations in V.C. 63; 18 singing males at Fairburn Ings; 14 at Mickletown Ings with four at Hay-a-Park; three at Staveley and four at Lemonroyd S.F. whilst 18 were present at Altofts.

The first of the year were reported from Mickletown Ings and Hornsea Mere on the 25th April followed by birds at Potteric Carr and Blacktoft on 27th with the latest being at Blacktoft on 7th October; Worsbrough on the 10th and Spurn on the 27th.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One singing near the lighthouse at Spurn on 28th May was the second record for the Observatory. (BRS *et al*).

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

One at Bempton on 13th September, the fourth record for Yorkshire (VAL, RAM *et al*).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Singing males were reported in spring from Kilnsea on 28th May and from Flamborough on 23rd May; 3rd and 4th June. In autumn reported from Flamborough with single birds on 19th; 20th and 25th August; 11th, 12th, and 16th September with two present on the 13th and 17th; one on 3rd October. One at Filey on 15th September. One at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea on 11th September with another there on 16th.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

One present at Lindley Wood Res. from 23rd to 26th April was the second Yorkshire record and the most northerly ever recorded in Britain. From its very worn tail and primaries it was considered to be a first summer bird and from its plumage considered to belong to the Continental race *S.u.undata*. (KM *et al*).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

A good year with, Spurn, one from 29th August to 1st September with a second bird present on the 1st; one caught in Kilnsea released at Spurn on the 3rd September; one on 4th; one on 9th and 10th with a second bird on the 10th; one on 11th; two on 12th with one on 13th; 15th to 17th and 19th; two on 16th. At Kilnsea; one on 11th; 16th; 19th and 20th with two on 17th. One at Holmpton on 17th and 29th October; one at Filey on 12th and 13th September with two at Flamborough on 11th September and one there on 13th; 14th; 16th and 17th; one on 15th October.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

The first of the year was reported from Harrogate on 12th April followed by single birds at Darfield S.F. on 13th; Potteric Carr on 14th then on the 16th two at Flamborough with singles at Thrybergh; Farnham and Stourton Marsh (Leeds). The main arrival occurred in early May though passage was noted at Flamborough during the latter days of April with five on the 29th and 19 on 30th; Spurn reporting eight and nine on these respective days with six at Filey on 30th. 11 at Flamborough on 2nd May with ten at Spurn on the 3rd.

No comments were received concerning breeding status; considered to be widespread in small numbers although also considered to be greatly under reported.

Autumnal passage was light with up to nine at Flamborough whilst Spurn reported 11 on 21st August; 14 on 28th with 12 on 31st and ten on 1st September. 30+ were recorded at Fairburn Ings on 26th August whilst one at Malham Tarn on 2nd August was only the third ever reported from that location. Birds lingered into October particularly along the coast with the last being reported from Spurn on 27th remaining until 2nd November.

Birds considered by the observers to belong to the race *S.c.blythi* were reported from Spurn on 8th/9th October with three on 10th and one from 27th October to 2nd November; one at Flamborough on 3rd October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

One at Carlton Marsh on 15th April was the first of the year with birds at Kilnsea; Hutton and near Pudsey the following day followed by another at Kilnsea on the 18th then on 19th at Temple Newsam and Barkston Ash. Widespread in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 by 26th April with good spring passage reported during May from Flamborough where 20 were reported on the 8th with 24 on 13th; 26 on 14th and then 19 on the 28th.

Would appear to be continuing to increase with comments received as 'well recorded throughout the summer' (Doncaster area); 'continues to increase, in some places dramatically' (Barnsley area where 49 pairs were reported from Winterset compared with ten in 1980); 'present in many areas to the N and E of the city (Sheffield)'; 'bred widely with an increase in many areas in the east' (V.C. 64); 'certainly more than in 1980' (Richmond area of V.C. 65). Breeding numbers reported from V.C. 63 were; Potteric Carr; 15 pairs; Thorpe Marsh, 23 pairs; Edderthorpe Flash, 26 pairs; Swillington area, 16 to 18 pairs.

Autumn passage generally light though 70 were recorded at Spurn on 4th August with up to 32 there between the 16th and 22nd whilst at Flamborough peaks were 25 on

23rd August and 20 on 25th. 17 at Spurn on 4th September with 15 at Flamborough on 16th. One at Flamborough on 5th October whilst one died falling down a house chimney in Hatfield, V.C. 63, on 10th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

The first of the year was at High Batts N.R. on 20th April followed by birds at Potteric Carr on 24th; Worsbrough on 25th then Beckett's Park (Leeds) on 26th. Passage along the coast light with 12 at Flamborough on 27th May and ten there on 28th when ten were also reported from Tophill Low Res.. Few comments were received concerning the breeding status and would appear to be unchanged. 17 pairs were at Winterset with up to ten at Potteric Carr. 27 males located in the Huddersfield area which, if anything, is a slight increase.

Good autumn passage with Spurn reporting the highest numbers for many years when, in early September, 50 were counted on the 12th though only nine were present the following day. During this period Flamborough had 14 on the 12th with 25 on 13th; 35 on 16th and 14 on the 17th. The last birds were reported from Filey on 21st October and Flamborough on 29th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Wintering birds were reported from five locations in the Sheffield area; one each near Doncaster and Bradford with birds at nine locations in V.C. 64. In March, birds were reported from Sprotbrough on 19th; Tophill Low Res. on 28th; Winterset on 29th and Eccleshall on the 30th; some of which may have been incoming birds. By early April was reported from many locations though spring passage was light. Considered to have maintained numbers and to have had a good breeding season; 21 singing males being counted in Roundhay Park, Leeds on 15th May. Autumn passage light with peaks at Spurn of 30 on 12th September with 20 on 13th whilst at Flamborough 14 on 12th was the highest count there. Widespread into October with many locations reporting birds into November. In December was reported from at least ten locations, usually single birds being involved though a pair at Fairburn Ings on 9th December and three males and two females at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on 2nd.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Single birds at Filey from 10th to 13th September (JAP, CCT *et al*) and at Spurn on 16th and 17th September (JMB, RGB, DP).

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Two at Filey on 8th October were still present the following day with one remaining to the 10th (PJD, JH, TJB *et al*). One at Flamborough on 8th and 9th October; two on the 10th and 11th with three on the 12th then two on 13th and one on the 14th – considered to be only three birds involved. (AMA, GPC, PAL, JMP, DGH, MN). One at Holmpton on the 28th and 29th (SLJ, SM). The Flamborough birds are still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

At Flamborough, one on the 17th and 28th September with two on the 29th and 30th. In October; three on the 1st and 3rd; 11 on the 4th; ten on 5th; four on 6th; 11 on 7th; eight on 8th with seven on the 9th; six on 10th; four on 12th and 13th; two on the 14th with one on the 29th; 30th and 31st. One on 15th November. One at Filey on 13th September remained until the 17th; four there on 7th October with three being present the following day; one on the 12th. One at Holmpton on 30th September with two on 7th October and one again on the 28th and 29th. One at Spurn on 1st October; two on the 3rd; one on 4th with another on the 10th. One in Kilnsea on 8th October.

In V.C. 62, single birds at Sandsend on 3rd September; at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 13th September and 4th October.

Inland, single birds at Tophill Low Res. on 26th October and in the Sheffield Botanical Gardens on 5th November being seen the following day.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

An early bird at Shropps Park on 15th April with the next at Gledhow, Leeds on the 21st then at Adel Woods on 25th. The main arrival being during the first week of May. Peak counts reported being 16+ at Bolton Abbey with ten at Adel Woods whilst a total of 50 singing males were counted in the Huddersfield; Barnsley and Doncaster areas (combined total) though only a quarter of these were proven breeders. No comments were received concerning breeding status though in V.C. 64 was stated to have bred at all the usual locations. Small numbers were recorded along the coast during both spring and autumn with three in the Spurn area on 17th May and two at Flamborough on 6th. Few birds remained after mid August though at both Filey and Flamborough several were reported in September with singles birds at the former from 11th to 16th and the latter on 11th, 12th, 15th and 16th whilst two at Filey on the 17th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Reported during January and February at four locations in V.C. 61; at two in V.C. 62; at six in V.C. 63; three in V.C. 64 and one in V.C. 65. Birds reported during early March which may have been immigrants were recorded at Hutton on 4th; Bradley (Huddersfield) and Denaby Ings on 5th then on the 12th at Roche Abbey; Broomhill Park; Fairburn Ings; Hay-a-Park and Killinghall. Spring passage was light with 18 at Flamborough on 1st April and 12 there on 16th and at Spurn on the 10th as the coastal maxima.

Breeding status in V.C. 61 would appear to be up judging from comments received whilst in V.C. 63 comments were 'some evidence of increase over previous years' (Sheffield); 'some increase (Bradford)'; 'at least three times usual numbers' (Winterset) and 'good numbers' (Huddersfield). Light autumn passage along the coast with 14 on 5th October at Flamborough as the highest count reported. Fewer records during the latter months with one to two birds reported from eight locations during December but four, possibly five, at Scarborough on 2nd.

Birds considered to belong to the northern race *P.c.abietinus* were reported from Filey on 10th April; Flamborough on seven days in October with two on both 6th and 25th November. Those thought to belong to the eastern race *P.c.tristis* were recorded at Filey on 6th December and at Flamborough on 15th and 29th April and 12th and 15th October.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Two or three at Fleet Plantation (V.C. 64) on 27th March with birds at Spurn; Winterset and the Rivelin valley the following day. Widespread occurrences before the end of this month though the main influx tended to be about the 8th April. Passage normal with up to 30 at Spurn between 8th and 10th April whilst Flamborough reported larger numbers during May with 44 on 9th and 46 on 14th. Inland, 50 at Fairburn Ings in early May with 51 counted between Lemonroyd S.F. and Swillington Ings on 28th April.

Considered to have had a good breeding season with no apparent change in status.

In autumn, 65 at Flamborough on 23rd August with 100 on 25th when 93+ were reported from Spurn. 100 at Fairburn Ings on 8th July with 150 there on 12th August and 100 at High Batts N.R. on the 13th. Most had departed by late September with birds recorded in October from Spurn, on the 5th; Flamborough with two on the 6th and Fairburn Ings on the 16th.

Birds considered to belong to the race *P.t.acredula* were reported from Carlton Marsh (caught in August) and from Flamborough where 13 individuals were recorded on six days in April.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

No comments received concerning breeding status. Few large gatherings reported during the early months of the year with 50 to 60 at Bawtry Forest and Barrow Hills on 4th and

6th January respectively; 60 in Deffer Wood on 26th February; 60 at Spurn 28th March with 47 at Flamborough on 27th.

Only a normal influx during autumn with, in September, 130 at Spurn on 12th when Flamborough reported 150 with 110 there on 16th and 150 on the 17th. In October, 130 at Flamborough on the 4th with 150 on 5th; 120 on 6th; 180 on 7th; 170 on 8th; 191 on 10th; 225 on the 12th with 145 on 27th and 260 on the 29th. This was reflected elsewhere along the coast with between 80 and 130 present at Spurn on the 8th to 10th with 130 on the 27th whilst at Holmpton 45 were recorded on the 28th with 59 at Kilnsea/Easington on the 27th.

Away from the coast; 100 were at Allerthorpe on 1st November; 70 to 75 at High Batts N.R. during early October; 50 at Malham Tarn on 16th September; 50 at North Dean Wood (Greetland) on 5th November whilst 'many' on the move in the Huddersfield area between 16th September and 5th November.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Reported from V.C. 61 at Spurn with single birds on 27th; 28th March and 27th October; at Kilnsea, singles on 9th/10th April and 8th October; at Holmpton with one on 17th September and two on 28th October, one remaining until the 29th. A singing male was at Hornsea on 22nd March whilst at Flamborough single birds were recorded on 11th/12th March; 2nd, 8th, 10th, 28th and 29th April; 2nd, 6th and 7th May. One on 29th and 31st October with three on the 30th. Filey reported two on 9th April with one remaining until the following day. One in full song on 27th May and finally one on 12th September being present nearby the following day. Inland in V.C. 61, one at Allerthorpe Common on 6th April. In V.C. 62, single birds were reported from Sandsend on 1st October; Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough, on 2nd December with one found dead at Grimston Wood on 14th.

Two were in the Botanical Gardens at Sheffield from 10th to 31st January whilst elsewhere in V.C. 63 single birds were reported from Woolley Woods, Sheffield, where the bird of 1988 remained until 6th March; in Concorde Park, Sheffield, on 26th October; at Winterset on 17th November and the Toftshaw Lane area of Bradford on 3rd and 5th November.

In V.C. 64, one at Knotford Nook on 4th and 7th January with two on the 8th and then one on 11th; 16th and 24th January; on 1st and 4th February. One in full song at Fairburn Ings on 27th April.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The first of the year was on 1st May at Mickletown Ings followed by two at Filey on the 2nd then Flamborough and High Batts N.R. on the 6th. The main arrival was during the last week of May and first week of June with only light passage being reported along the coast where eight were present at Spurn on 24th May and seven at Filey the following day.

Stated to have had an excellent breeding season in V.C. 64 whilst in V.C. 63, good numbers were reported from the Doncaster area though considered to be fewer in the Sheffield area than in 1988 and a poor year in the York area.

Autumn passage light with double figures occasionally reported from the coast where Spurn recorded 14 on 25th August and 11 on 12th September with 18 at Flamborough on 12th September; 22 on 13th; 12 on 17th and 19 on 23rd; Filey having a peak of 28 on 13th September. The last of the year were recorded on 27th September from Winterset and Whinmoor, Leeds.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

A single record in spring with a female at Flamborough on 21st May. Reported during autumn from along the coast with one at Spurn on 11th September, two on the 12th and one remaining until the 13th. One at Kilnsea on 10th. Filey recorded five birds in total with two on 10th September; two on the 11th; one on 12th, 15th, 17th and two on the 22nd. One on 1st and 2nd October. Single birds at Rolston on 15th September; Grimston on 13th and Holmpton on 28th and 29th October. The only inland record coming from Bransholme (Hull) on 4th October.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One at High Batts N.R. on 26th April with a pair at Spa Gill Wood on the 28th when one was at Spurn; little spring passage being reported.

12 broods totalling 79 young in the Richmond area of V.C. 65; 15 pairs with 91 young at Folley Hall (V.C. 64) and six pairs with 29 young at Dob Park (V.C. 64) would all indicate a good breeding season with birds being reported from all the usual locations in V.C.s 62; 63; 64 and 65. Autumn passage along the coast was the best since 1974 with Spurn having between 12 and 25 during the period 9th to 16th September with a peak of 100 on the 12th whilst Flamborough had 45 on 11th September with 85 on the 12th; 83 on 13th; 34 on 14th; 38 on 16th and 31 on the 17th; Filey having smaller numbers during this period with 28 on the 13th as their peak; six at Grimston on 13th September. Few birds remained by the end of the month with the last being reported from Flamborough on 6th October and from Spurn on the 10th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Once again the mild winter resulted in good survival rates at Blacktoft where up to 200 were reported early in the year. High flying displays and chases in April and May indicated some arrivals from wintering locations elsewhere. 90 pairs were thought to have bred judging from census work and distribution of breeders; first broods were above average with second broods average and many third broods reported. It was estimated that 900 birds were present in early October at the peak of the irruptions after which some 250 were reported to be present during November and December.

Elsewhere, in V.C. 61, one pair bred at Hornsea Mere fledging three young. Birds were present there from 26th June; throughout August and September usually five but up to seven in November. Four at Welton Water including two juveniles on 8th July; four at Brough on 1st September with 12 there on 25th; five at Saltend on 28th January and 26th February with small numbers during the latter months of the year on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge with a maximum of 16 in October.

One, a female, at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough (V.C. 62) on 26th October was the first record for that location.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Another species to benefit from the mild winter with good numbers reported from many locations. Large gatherings reported were 100 at High Batts N.R. on 13th August and 16th September; 90+ at Lindley Wood Res. on 21st September with 70+ there on both 9th February and 15th June; 76 in Woolley Wood on 26th November; 52 on Thorne Moors on 30th September with 56 at Tophill Low Res. on 5th June. Many locations reporting flocks of 25 to 45. Considered to have had a very good breeding season in all areas.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Scarce in V.C. 61 with the only breeding record coming from Nunburnholme. Two near Hornsea Mere on 13th May otherwise single birds occasionally reported from Filey and the York area though one at Wheldrake was the second record there and one at Spurn on 4th and 5th July was only the sixth for the Observatory. Very local in V.C. 63; six pairs at Roche Abbey with birds being resident at Stones Wood, also being reported on several occasions at Wilsic. In V.C. 64, was reported from 25 locations, usually one or two birds but 12 at High Batts N.R. during September and October with ten at Roundhay Park, Leeds on 2nd July. No change reported from V.C. 65 where, in the Catterick area, it is considered to be five times as common as Willow Tit. No comments were received on breeding success or status.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

In the eastern part of the V.C. 61 bred at both Tophill Low Res. and Pulfin Bog whilst in the York area bred at six locations. No comments from V.C. 62 but in V.C. 63 considered to be maintaining numbers in the Sheffield; Doncaster; Barnsley and Pontefract areas though thought to be scarcer in the Huddersfield region than some ten years ago and is

rarely reported from around Halifax and quite scarce around Bradford. In V.C. 64, said to be still decreasing around Leeds and only reported from seven locations around Harrogate though still more widespread in this V.C. than Marsh Tit. More localized in V.C. 65 than Marsh Tit and thought to be far fewer in numbers where both occur. The only notable record was of a flock of 50 with other tits at Skipwith Common on 25th August.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

The only breeding records received for V.C. 61 were from Hornsea Mere and Tophill Low Res. though birds were present during the summer at a further eight locations. Bred at five locations in V.C. 62 with breeding at many locations in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 though no comments from V.C. 65. Generally had a good breeding season in the west of the county. Large parties were reported from Allerthorpe Common with 100 on 1st November; Skipwith Common, 50 on 25th August; 40 in Great Gate Wood, Doncaster on 31st August with 30 to 40 at several other locations in V.C. 63 whilst in V.C. 64 the largest gathering was 31 at Eccup on 21st October.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Although a possible slight reduction was reported from Tophill Low Res., generally it was considered that no change in status was apparent throughout the county. The only comments received concerning the breeding was that this species had done well. Large flocks were reported from many locations with 135 in Roundhay Park on 5th January, 120 there on 2nd July; 100 at High Batts N.R. on 15th October whilst at Flamborough 120 were counted on 16th September with 100 on the 30th; 110 on 11th November and 75 on the 14th. 80 at Blacktoft on 13th December with 150 at Skipwith Common on 25th August and 100 at both Allerthorpe Common on 1st November and at Castle Howard on 15th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

No apparent change in status though would appear to be greatly under recorded. Generally small numbers reported from V.C. 61 though an extremely large party at Skipwith Common 25th August (see other tits) contained some 300 birds. 52 in Storrs Mill Wood on 8th February; 40 in Bretton Park on 15th November with 40 in Roundhay Park, Leeds on 2nd July and 40 at Eccup on 24th August.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Very scarce in V.C. 61 with possible breeding at Scampston, the only other record from this V.C. being at Settrington on 15th January. No change in status in V.C. 62 where birds were reported as usual from the edges of the North York Moors and the Scarborough area. Increasing and consolidating as a breeding bird in V.C. 63, breeding being reported from Wilsic; Sandall Beat; Rossington/Mount Pleasant; Hatchell Wood (all Doncaster area); at two locations near Sheffield; two locations near Huddersfield; two locations near Bradford; five near Barnsley with one near Todmorden. The increase in the Leeds area of V.C. 64 noted in 1987 has apparently ceased although birds were present on 21st June in Leeds city centre; some 30 pairs were considered to have bred in the area.

Said to be common around the Richmond/Applegarth area of V.C. 65 with reports also received from Gunnerside Gill and Arkengarthdale.

Tree Creeper *Certhia familiaris*

No change in breeding status reported. 15 in Woolley Woods on 17th March with 12 at High Batts N.R. on 1st October. Single birds at Flamborough on 28th to 30th September; 1st, 13th, 14th, 30th and 31st October were considered by the observers concerned to belong to the nominate race *C.f. familiaris*.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

One present at Blacktoft from 17th to 30th March may possibly have been one of the birds from November 1988. (AG). Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A female at Sunk Island on 20th May was seen to leave towards the east and may have been the bird seen at Spurn on the same date which left to the northwest (JW, PS). A first year male at Spurn on 25th May remaining until the 27th (NAB, JC, BRS *et al.*). A singing male at Flamborough on 6th June (PAL).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Single male at Filey on 28th May with a female at Spurn on the same date. In autumn, an immature at Filey on 12th September remaining in the area until the 23rd; single birds at Flamborough on 11th; 18th; 23rd; 25th and 26th September with two on the 19th; at Spurn, single birds on 29th August, 2nd to 4th September, 10th with three on the 11th; two on 12th and 13th after which one to three were present until the 24th with three on the 16th, 17th and 18th; one on 27th. Immature at Kilnsea from 28th to 31st August with an immature at Saltend on 23rd September.

The only inland record was of a female at Strensall Common on 19th September.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

A first winter bird was present at Rudston from 14th September to the 25th (JED, JMD *et al.*). Another first winter bird reported from Saltend on 16th October (MS *et al.*) with a third similarly aged bird at Bishop Monkton on 31st October and 1st November (PB, RE, CS, SW). These last two are still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Reported from Spurn with one on the 30th April and 1st May and one or two from the 27th to 30th October. Single birds at Flamborough on 23rd April and 28th October; one at Kilnsea on 18th April with one at Sunk Island on 23rd. Inland, one near Low Mill, Farndale (V.C. 62) on 11th October; the bird at Stourton Marsh, Leeds first reported in December 1988 remained in that vicinity until 2nd April with one appearance at Knostrop S.F. on 23rd January. One at Harthill Res. on 21st April.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Scarce in V.C. 61 with the only breeding record away from the York area being from Hornsea Mere where a maximum of five birds were recorded during March and November. One at Tophill Low Res. on 25th May with one at Kilnsea on 18th April. Small numbers breeding along the southern slopes of the North Yorks Moors of V.C. 62 otherwise few reported from this V.C. Well distributed in V.C. 63 in mature and coniferous woodlands with ten pairs in Woolley Woods, Sheffield; 17 at Walton Hall on 27th July and 12 at Shipley Glen on 30th March. In V.C. 64, only reported from eight locations in the Harrogate area which is considered not to reflect a true status; elsewhere no change in status noted with no parties of over eight recorded. No comments received from V.C. 65.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Little change in V.C. 61 though may still be increasing slowly; largest numbers reported being 40 at Flamborough on 1st January; 30 at Hunmanby Gap on 2nd February and up to 25 at Atwick during both winters. In V.C. 63 roosts of between 50 and 100 reported from two Bradford; two Barnsley; two Sheffield and one Huddersfield locations whilst larger counts were reported from Woolley Wood, Sheffield with up to 220 during the early months; 127 at Wath on 19th January; 125 at Bradley (near Huddersfield) on 7th February with 260+ at Potteric Carr on 13th February and 6th March (highest counts ever for this location) and over 220 at the end of the year. No change in status in V.C. 64 with maxima at roosts of 125 on 30th January and 130 on 29th December at Gledhow Valley Wood, Leeds; 86 at Rodley S.F. and 75 at Knostrop S.F. on 15th October.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

No comments received concerning change of status in V.C. 61 though numbers reported from various roosts would appear to be lower than in 1988. No change in status reported from the other V.C.s where peak counts reported were 2500 at Bolton-on-Swale on 23rd August; 1200 at Bingley during February. All other counts reported being less than 1000.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

No reports on status received though roost at Hornsea Mere well down on previous years with peaks of 1000 during November and December. 1100 at Flamborough on 3rd November decreasing to 460 the following day would indicate a large influx. Up to 1000 roosting in the vicinity of Tophill Low Res. though 1700 on 5th February and 2300 on the 28th. Large counts in the other Vice-Counties being 1500 at Broomhill Flash on 28th July; 1500 at Carlton on 26th December.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

The very large numbers reported roosting at Hornsea Mere during the winter months of 1000 during January and February with 1500 in November and 2000 in December do not reflect the numbers reported from farmland in the vicinity of that roost. Some indication of passage was noted at Flamborough in October with 60 on the 10th; 115 on 12th and 65 on the 30th whilst numbers had built up in that area to 350 on 17th December. Maxima reported in the other V.C.s were 295 at Bingley on 6th January with 200 at Roundhay Park, Leeds on 31st December and 100 near Elland on 2nd December.

Birds of the race *C.c.cornix*; Hooded Crow were very scarce with singles being recorded at Spurn on 30th March; 8th and 22nd April and 30th May; at Filey on 18th February; 11th March; 9th and 21st April; at Tophill Low Res. on 26th February; 6th, 26th March and 1st April. In V.C. 63 from Rod Moor (west of Sheffield) on 13th May and Broomhill Tip on 14th and 16th July; 4th and 5th October with one in V.C. 64 flying northwest over Fairburn Ings on 2nd May.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Five were reported from Upper Coverdale (V.C. 65) on 30th September with two there on 4th October; reports received of birds in Arkengarthdale and West Stonesdale from keepers on several occasions. In V.C. 64, two were recorded at Scar House Res. on 20th September and 3rd October with two at Lofthouse on 23rd September. Up to six at Malham Tarn from 24th September to the end of the year with a party of three at Lower Barden Res. on 30th September.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Roosts in V.C. 61 at Hornsea Mere with 10,000 during November and 20,000 in December; 7–12,000 at Skipwith Common on 23rd March with 12–15,000 at New Earswick in early June (mostly juveniles). 9050 on 19th October at Flamborough with 11,000 on the 30th; 6–7000 at Pulfin Bog towards the end of November; 13,500 south at Tophill Low Res. on 1st July. Several roosts of up to 7000 in V.C. 63 with larger numbers of 9000 on 9th March in Sheffield city centre; 2000 at Potteric Carr on 11th November; 20,000 at Blacktoft on 25th July with 15,000 there on 12th August. In V.C. 64, 7–8000 at Bardsey on 15th January with 7000 in Roundhay Park, Leeds on 23rd May; 8000 at Fairburn Ings on 6th July and 6000 at Mickletown Ings during autumn.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

No change in status reported. The highest counts in V.C. 61 being 300 on 12th August at Flamborough and 500 at Filey in mid September. In V.C. 63; 1000 at Thrybergh during most of August whilst in V.C. 64 few records were received with the largest gatherings being of 70 at several locations.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

The only report from V.C. 61 concerning the status of this species was from Flamborough where it is said to be more numerous as a breeding bird than in recent years. Comments from V.C. 63 indicate a decline through the 1980s in the Sheffield and Huddersfield areas with a similar situation suspected from Doncaster. Continues to suffer a restricted distribution in V.C. 64 though an increase in reports from the Leeds area but thought to be due to an increase in observer coverage. Rather local in V.C. 65. Largest counts reported being 110 at Flamborough on 2nd December with 100 the following day; 70 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd January; 75+ at Thorpe Marsh on 25th March; 60+ in Pontefract Park on 1st January; 100+ at Cockersdale on 12th February with 80 at Compton on 17th September. 121 south at Spurn on 30th October.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

No comments received concerning status thus assumed to be unchanged. Very little passage noted along the coast with 74 south at Spurn on 27th March as the maximum there with 61 west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 24th September. Inland, westerly movements were reported from the Sheffield area with 250 over Redmires Res. on 24th September; 525 on 23rd October and 240 on 1st November on which date 130 were reported passing over Concord Park.

Winter flocks were generally low though larger concentrations were reported from Midhope with 700 on 31st January and 400+ on 19th; 250 at Moss Valley on 5th March; 200 at Broomhead Res. on 25th April; 220 at Flamborough on 26th October with 300 on 31st; 250+ at Bolton Abbey on 18th March; up to 200 at Gouthwaite in November and West Tanfield in January. 200 at Gate Helmsley on 2nd January and 200 at Skipwith on 14th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Generally well distributed during the early months of the year though few large parties reported; the largest of which were 200+ in the Ewden valley from 11th January to 11th February with a peak of over 270 on 5th February; 150 at Cowlam (V.C. 61) on 12th February; 150 at Moss Valley on 5th March; 100 at Oughtibridge on 21st March with 80 at Sledmere on 5th February. A few birds lingered into May with, on the 1st, three at Flamborough; two at Brompton-on-Swale and one each at Spurn; Puffin Bog and Wadsley; one at Spurn on the 2nd; at Sprotbrough Flash on the 6th; Spurn on the 7th and finally on the 8th.

The first of the autumn was reported from Strines Top on 29th September then Spurn on the 30th. Possibly more widespread during these latter months with passage along the coast being reported from Flamborough with 140 on 15th October and Spurn on the 27th with 200 south there. Largest parties reported were 120 at Bretton Park on 27th November; up to 80 during December at Cliffe Castle, Keighley; 250+ at Blubberhouses on 5th November; 100 at Bramham on 3rd December and 100 at Spurn on 29th October. Westerly passage was noted in the Sheffield area with 80 at Redmires Res. on 24th October and 120 at Strines Top on 31st October.

Serín *Serinus serinus*

One flew south at Spurn on 31st May (IC *et al.*). Male at Flamborough on 9th June (JCL) with either a female or immature there on 21st July (PAL).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

No particularly large winter flocks were reported though 288 were ringed in one garden at East Cowton, V.C. 65 in two months, with only 50 per cent being re-trapped. The largest parties reported being 100 at Esholt Hall on 29th January; 100 at Wilsic during March with 200 at High Batts N.R. on 26th March and 250 at Thornton on 7th January.

No comments received on breeding status.

A very large gathering was reported at Hutton (V.C. 62) with 1000 there on both 25th and 29th August. 600 were at Langsett in November with 250 in the Idle valley on

11th December; 200 at High Batts N.R. on 26th November, at Barmston on 29th December; 200 at Filey on 29th September with 130 at Roundhay Park on 31st December; 130 at Bradley Bar (Huddersfield) on 4th August and 130 at Worsbrough during September. Southerly passage at Spurn was light with 386 on 12th October as the peak count.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

The mild winter weather resulted in many small flocks, the largest reported being 35 at Barlow Common on 3rd January with 27 at Knostrop S.F. on the same date. Numbers during spring were also generally low with peaks at Spurn of 150 south on 30th April and 149 on the 4th May whilst at Flamborough 32 on 30th April was the highest at that location. All areas from which comments were received agreed the breeding season had been a good one. Autumn passage also light with a maximum at Spurn of 314 south on 6th October; 70 at Flamborough on 30th September whilst along the Humber, at Sunk Island, 75 flew west on 24th September, 69 west and 32 east the following day with 118 west on 27th. Largest parties reported during the latter months were 160 at Blacktoft on 4th September; 150 at Pontefract Park on 22nd September; 150 at Duck Street Quarry on 5th September; up to 120 at Mickletown Ings during mid August; 100 at Moor Lane, Pontefract, on 11th September; 100 at Hutton (V.C. 62) on 2nd September. Flock sizes reduced towards the winter months with 60 in Cudworth Park on 11th December and 50 at Red Hall, Leeds, on 25th December being the most reported.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Confirmed breeding occurred in V.C. 64 at Micklefield and Spensfield/Becketts Park (Leeds) with birds being present in the breeding season at Harewood Park; in V.C. 63 present in the breeding season in Upper Derwentdale; Strines; Wyming Brook; Upper Rivelin; Ewden and Upper Little Don valleys plus occasional records from Roche Abbey and Deffer Wood. No records received from the forests of V.C. 62. Large parties reported during the early months were 100 at Rigton Hill, Bardsey, on 22nd January with 100 at High Batts N.R. on 31st March; 200+ in Lindley Wood on 24th April; 100 at Askham Bryan on 17th April and 120 at Bretton Park on 8th January. Many flocks of between 30 and 50 were reported particularly from V.C.s 63 and 64. Very little spring migration reported. Good numbers reported along the coast in autumn with southerly passage at Spurn peaking on 4th November when 402 were recorded including one flock of 110. Lighter passage also noted during the latter days of October with 65 at Flamborough on 26th; 80 on the 29th and 50 on 30th with Spurn reporting 132 on the 24th. The only passage noted inland being 90 flying west over Redmires on 21st September.

Few large parties reported during the latter months with 100+ in Forge Valley on 29th December; 120 in Bretton Park on 22nd October decreasing to 30 by mid November but 100 on 28th December.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

No comments were received concerning breeding status or success thus assumed to be unchanged.

Flocks during the early months were fewer and smaller than during the latter; 200 at Edderthorpe being the only one of note before spring passage commenced. Numbers in many areas increased during April, with along the coast, at Spurn 500 reported flying south on the 30th whilst at Flamborough 210 were reported on the 9th with 200 on 15th; 250 on 29th and 580 on the 30th. Inland during this month 160 reported from Oulton on 1st with 100 at Great Preston on the 23rd. In May, 300 south at Spurn on the 1st with Flamborough having 300 on the 2nd whilst 190 flew north over Hutton on the 3rd.

Numbers were building up by July in many locations with flocks of up to 300 at Thrybergh during that month; 250 at Knotford Nook on 25th and 150 at Wentbridge on 21st. In August; up to 700 at Thrybergh with 300 at Edderthorpe on the 21st; 400 at Rockley on 26th; 1000 at Ingbirchworth at the end of the month whilst 200 at Wroot during most of the month. In V.C. 64, 200 were at Hutton Conyers on the 27th with 500 near Bramham on the 15th. Peak numbers were reported along the coast in September with 1354 south at

Spurn on the 21st and at Flamborough; 450 on 16th; 700 on 24th and 600 on the 30th. 158 flew east at Sunk Island on 26th September with this location also having 140 passing on 5th August. 950 at Flamborough on 1st October though not reflected at Spurn where 417 flew south on the 6th whilst Flamborough had 400 on the 4th. Inland, southerly passage was noted at Redmires with 590 on 21st September; 785 on 24th then 165 on 23rd October. Flocks of note inland during September were 150 at Gouthwaite on 24th and Eccup on 26th with 145 at Lemonroyd S.F. on the 3rd. 170 at Pulfin Bog on 1st October with 112 still present at Eccup on the 8th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

In V.C. 63 there were widespread records from the Pennines in all areas from the west of Sheffield to Keighley, although sizes of the autumn flocks reported were not very large. Breeding status in V.C. 64 thought to be unchanged though only one pair was found in the Harrogate area but this is considered to reflect observer coverage rather than actual number of birds. No comments received from V.C. 65. A flock of 40 at Wainstalls, Halifax on 1st January is considered to be a reflection on the mild winter weather as parties on the high ground at this time of year are scarce. 32 were at Blackmoorfoot on 23rd February. None along the coast during the early months with the only records from the east of the county being at Sunk Island with 18 on 1st January and ten there the following day. In autumn; 17 at Flamborough on 8th September with 25 on the 11th and then in October 28 on the 1st with 22 on the 4th whilst at Spurn up to 17 were present from the 5th to the 9th; 11 on the 15th but 19 flying south there on the 12th. 24 at Flamborough on 11th November. At Sunk Island, 52 flew west on 8th October.

Autumn flocks in V.C. 63 were 60 at Deer Hill on 18th July with similar number at Broadstones on 17th September; 30 at Blacktoft on 30th October and 27 on Slaithwaite Moor on 26th November. 150 at Malham Tarn, V.C. 64, during September with 25 at Dallowgill on 23rd September. 12 on Fremington Edge, V.C. 65, on 14th September.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

The only comment on breeding in V.C. 61 was from Tophill Low Res. where four pairs bred, half the usual number. In V.C. 63, although breeding was confirmed from many areas, numbers are now much lower than in the mid 1970s whilst in V.C. 64 there were few definite breeding records though this may not be a true reflection of status as many local societies do not comment on this species.

Numbers reported in V.C. 61 were low with up to 41 at Spurn during the latter part of August as the maximum whilst Flamborough had 33 on 29th October; 30 at Hornsea Mere during February and March. No records from V.C. 62. In V.C. 63, numbers were generally low during the early months but larger towards the end of the year with 50 at Potteric Carr from October to the end of the year; 300 at Upper Derwentdale on 19th November with 80 at Greno Woods on 27th December and 60 at Esholt S.W. on the 31st. 100 were counted flying west over Redmires on 15th October. Highest counts reported from V.C. 64 were 100+ near Eccup Moor on 22nd January with 130 at Ilkley on 28th December and 80 at Eccup Res. on 17th November.

Birds considered to be of the race *C.f.flammea* (Mealy Redpoll) were reported from Flamborough with two on 22nd January; two at Edderthorpe on 19th January (plus one large bird with a white rump); at Potteric Carr with two present from the 14th to 20th February; two at Thorpe Marsh on 16th November whilst 'several' were reported from Strines Top on 4th November. One at Naburn S.W. on 7th April.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostris*

In V.C. 63 bred at Redmires; Wymingbrook; Midhope and Underbank with possible breeding in the Little Don valley. 15 birds were present at Wymingbrook on 30th April whilst at Midhope and Underbank, two males were present on 14th May. Four to five birds in the Little Don valley between 21st March and 12th April including an immature on 1st April. Other records from this V.C. were three birds in Bawtry Forest on 4th January with four west over Bessacarr on 3rd August; one at each of the following, St Ives on

1st January; Deffer Wood on 22nd January; Cannon Hall on 4th February and Winscar on 22nd February.

In V.C. 62 two pairs were in Charm Park on 11th July though no comment was received as to whether breeding had occurred. No records received from the Dalby Forest area. V.C. 64 reported a very poor year with only ten records, being singles at Eccup Res. on 25th February; 19th and 26th March; singles at Timble Ings on 31st March and 28th July; two at Otley Chevin on 25th March with one at Great Preston on 27th March; three at Golden Acre Park on 6th May; singles at Eccup Res. on 23rd June and at Gouthwaite on 14th October.

Single birds were reported in V.C. 61 at Spurn on 28th September; Flamborough on 3rd May and 5th June; Hornsea on 11th June; Grimston on 1st January and at Skipwith Common on 25th June.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

A good year with singing birds at Spurn on 27th and 28th May (NAB, TMC); on 2nd June (NAB, BRS, MGN *et al*); on 7th June and 21st July (BRS). At Kilnsea on 27th May (many obs) and 25th July (SML, MCH). A singing male at Flamborough on 4th June (AMA, MN, PJW, *et al*).

During the autumn birds were reported from Spurn on 12th September (BRS, DJB, IC); at Flamborough on 18th September (PJW, PAL, VAL) and from Kilnsea on 16th September (ASB), and Beacon Lane on 17th.

An immature male in song at Malham Tarn, V.C. 64, on 22nd June (BS).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Quite scarce in V.C. 61 with breeding confirmed only at Hornsea Mere and the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area. No comments from V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 breeding reported from most areas with no exceptional concentrations although census work in the Sheffield area revealed up to four in over 50 tetrads with the highest concentrations in suburban woodlands. The decrease in breeding records in the Harrogate area (V.C. 64) is not considered to be a true reflection of status. Parties of up to 12 were not infrequent where this species is widespread with higher counts of 16 at Worsbrough in January; 14 at Lindley Wood Res. on 5th October and 25 at Dunnington Common on 22nd December.

An indication of an influx was noted at Flamborough with 56 recorded on 17 days in October. Two birds here on 26th November were considered to belong to the nominate race *P.p. pyrrhula*.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

The only breeding records were received from Becca Hall (V.C. 64); Sandall Beat, with probably five pairs; Sprotbrough Flash and Woolley Woods with three, possibly four pairs (all V.C. 63).

Very scarce in the east with single birds at Spurn on 5th and 26th May; at Cropton Forest on 14th February and in Dalby Forest on 14th June. Several records from the York Orn. Club reporting area with three at Buttercrambe on 19th April; four at Escrick on 28th October and two over the city centre on 27th.

In V.C. 63, peak counts received from Woolley Woods were 12 in January; 16 in February; 23 in March with 16 in April but small numbers towards the end of the year when four on 29th October was the highest count. Ten at Roche Abbey on 12th March with ten also at Sandall Beat on 1st May and up to five at Sprotbrough Flash. Bretton Park recorded 15 on 15th October with 22 on the 22nd otherwise only small numbers from that location. Ten at Stainbrough during late February; five at Cannon Hall in January with five at Rockley in mid February. One to three birds reported from Deffer Wood; Wentbridge Hills; Howell Wood; Elsecarr; Langsett; Underbank; Melton Wood; Thorpe Marsh; Carterknowle; Whiston Meadows; Mount Pleasant with four at Wentworth on 31st December and an adult feeding two juveniles at Rossington Hall on 14th May probably having bred nearby.

Considered to have been a poor year in V.C. 64 although 54 were reported from Fountains Abbey on 8th January. Elsewhere, one to eight birds at Whinmoor, Leeds, between 19th January and 22nd April otherwise only single birds reported from Fairburn Ings; Conyngnam Hall; Knaresborough; High Batts N.R.; Swinton Park and Ledston Park.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Very few recorded during the early months with 26 at Flamborough on 2nd January as the only party of any note. Six were at that same location on 8th January with eight on the 21st and one on the 9th. Spurn reported five south on 5th February with single birds on 7th; 21st and 24th January with another on 8th April. Four at Barmston on 26th February with one on 19th March.

During the latter months one or two at Spurn on many days after the first on 9th September with four present on 12th November; one to two occasionally at Flamborough in September with more during October when 13 were recorded on the 16th and in November with 19 on the 19th; 26 on 26th and 20 on the 2nd December and finally nine on the 23rd. Few at Filey with five on 12th October remaining until the 20th. 17 at Rolston on 1st December. Present at Long Nab from late October to early December with peaks of 20 on 22nd October; 13 on 9th November after which up to four were reported until 7th December. 14 at Grimston on 2nd December otherwise one or two at a further four locations along the coast. Single birds at Hornsea Mere on 19th October; 1st and 16th November whilst further inland one at Pulfin Bog on 17th September.

In V.C. 63; two at Blacktoft on 21st October with one there on 18th February and 18th October. Single birds recorded at Angler's on 19th February and 31st October; at Concord Park, Sheffield, on 17th September; Strines Top on 31st October and at Ox Stones on 15th October. One at Ardsley Res. on 11th January whilst the only record from V.C. 64 was a single bird at Hawksworth Moor on 24th and 25th February.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

As with the last species few during the early months with 40 at Flamborough on 8th January with 24 on 14th and 20 on the 20th with no other location reporting more than ten birds. During the latter months 58 reported from Holmpton on 11th November with 41 on the 25th and 47 on 29th. In the Easington/Kilnsea/Spurn area a flock (or flocks) were present during November and December with at Easington 75 on 20th December whilst at Kilnsea, 64 on 9th December with 72 on the 10th and 50 on 16th; Spurn having 55 on 18th December with 40 or 41 on several occasions in late November and early December. 49 at Aldbrough on 17th November with 32 at Barmston on 15th. In V.C. 62, 40 were at Long Nab on 16th November with 60 there on 26th; 46 on 27th and 60 on 3rd December decreasing to 46 again on 7th. 80+ at Scalby Mills on 7th December whilst at Whitby 50+ were reported during December.

Inland, in V.C. 63, two at Blacktoft on 15th November and at Strines Top on 1st November with single birds reported from Pontefract; Burbage; Edderthorpe; Thrybergh Res.; Oxenhope; Redmires Res.; Bolton Ings; Southfield Res. and Angler's. The only inland records from V.C. 61 were of single birds at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd March and at Wheldrake Ings on 4th November. Nine flew west at Angram (V.C. 64) on 22nd April with three along the Lofthouse/Leighton road on 18th November. Single birds at Fairburn Ings on 7th/8th January with another on the 15th. One at Swillington Ings on 19th March. The only record from V.C. 65 was of two birds at Feldon on 27th February.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

From comments received it would appear there is no change in breeding status.

Flocks in the east of the county being 200 at Flamborough on 18th March with 150 on 29th October; 140 on 19th November; 200 on the 25th and 170 on 2nd December. 100 at Snainton on 16th January with 105 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd January. In the York area, 160 at Wistow Lordship on 21st March whilst further west, in V.C. 63, up to 150 at High Hoyland in January; 200 at Edderthorpe during the same month with many locations

having flocks of about 80. Between 150 and 200 at Carleton S.F. on 22nd February with a similar number there in November and December. 125 at Wilsic during late November. No really large parties reported from V.C. 64 with maxima recorded being 84 at Horsforth Res. on 5th March; 80 at Fairburn Ings on 6th February with 75 there on 29th December. 50 at East Cowton, in V.C. 65, was the largest party reported in that V.C..

Oortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 16th May; 10th and 11th September with another on 17th (PAL *et al.*). One at Spurn on 10th and 11th September (NAB, JH, SML *et al.*) with another on the 11th (BRS, IC DJB *et al.*).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

An immature female trapped at Filey on 12th September (SC, PJD, HJW, AW).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

A good year with two first winter birds at Flamborough from 10th to 13th September being trapped on the 12th and released on 13th (PAL, MN, PJW *et al.*); another first winter bird trapped on the 12th (AMA, AG, PAL *et al.*). One seen there on 18th September (PAL) whilst one was seen at Kilnsea on 17th September (RCH, JCL) with another there from 28th to 30th October being trapped on the 30th (JC, BRS, SL *et al.*). The bird of the 18th September at Flamborough is still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Once more considered to have undergone a slight reduction in breeding numbers at Tophill Low Res.; no comments received from other locations. Numbers breeding or males holding territories were reported as; Blacktoft, 125 pairs thought to have bred; 27 pairs at Winterset Res.; 16 singing males at Pulfin Bog; 44 males holding territories at Fairburn Ings with 20 breeding pairs at Mickletown Ings. Would appear to be increasingly using seed rape fields in Holderness (along with Sedge Warbler).

Light passage along the coast with 29 south at Spurn on 25th September and 36 on 12th October whilst Flamborough reported an influx with 65 present on several days in October and 55 on 12th November; 29 west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 5th November. 100 present at Blacktoft during the early months with 150 during November and December peaking at 160 on 25th December; 52 roosted at Worsbrough on 1st January whilst 50 were noted at Fairburn Ings during the early and late months. 45 at Staveley on 21st September.

Southwesterly movement reported from Redmires Res. with 25 on 29th September with a similar count on 23rd October; 35 counted in one hour at Strines Top on 31st October.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*

A male came onboard a vessel in the Humber staying until the vessel reached Hull (RAE) whilst another male was reported at Filey on 16th September. Both records are under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee although the possibility of these being escaped birds cannot be ruled out.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Comments received from V.C. 61 were 'scarcer than formerly' (Flamborough) and 'generally quite scarce' (Tophill Low Res.) In V.C. 63; 'very scarce' (Huddersfield); 'holding its own' (Sheffield); 'more numerous' (Barnsley/Doncaster/Castleford areas). In V.C. 64 an increase in the number of reports particularly to the east of Leeds owing to breeding atlas work though not sure whether this is an actual increase.

Flocks reported in V.C. 61 down on last year with 80 at Burstwick on 10th December and 65 at Atwick on 31st October; in V.C. 63, 280 were counted in a roost at Edderthorpe pit yard with c200 at Winterset during late November; 80 at Branton on 25th February with 70 at Mount Pleasant on 11th January and at Wentbridge Hill on 2nd December.

Only small numbers reported from V.C. 64 although 115 were reported flying over Fairburn Ings on 13th January.

In the York area; 150 were at East Cottingwith on 16th September with a similar number at Bubwith on 31st December.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

A first summer male was present at Flamborough from 23rd to 25th May being trapped on the last day (PAL, JCL, PJW *et al*). This record was initially accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee but on reflection is being re-assessed in the light of birds being imported into the country therefore the possibility of an escaped bird has been raised.

The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, and where appropriate forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, period of observation, species present for comparison if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms based upon those accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver	Pomarine Skua
Black-throated Diver	Long-tailed Skua
Slavonian Grebe	Mediterranean Gull
Black-necked Grebe	Ring-billed Gull
Cory's Shearwater	Iceland Gull
Great Shearwater	Sabine's Gull
Storm Petrel	Roseate Tern
Leach's Petrel	Black Guillemot
Purple Heron	Woodlark
White Stork	Richard's Pipit
Bean Goose	Tawny Pipit
Red-crested Pochard	Bluethroat
Ferruginous Duck	Cetti's Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Savi's Warbler
Red Kite	Aquatic Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Marsh Warbler
Goshawk	Icterine Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Melodious Warbler
Golden Eagle	Barred Warbler
Hobby	Yellow-browed Warbler
Spotted Crake	Firecrest
Crane	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Stone Curlew	Golden Oriole
Kentish Plover	Chough
Temminck's Stint	Raven
Pectoral Sandpiper	Serin
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Scarlet Rosefinch
Red-necked Phalarope	Cirl Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting

British Birds Rarities

A complete list of species, descriptions of which are required by *British Birds* before publication in the annual Report on rare birds in Great Britain, was last published in *British Birds*, Vol. 81 (1988) Number 9 pages xv and xvi.

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1989 have been received and those readers requiring more information on the areas concerned should consult the relevant report.

Barnsley and District Bird Study Group
Bradford Naturalists' Society
Bradford Ornithological Group
Castleford and District Naturalists' Society
Doncaster and District Ornithological Society
Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve
Filey Brigg Ornithological Group
Halifax Scientific Society
Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society
Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club
Leeds Birdwatchers' Club
Settle Bird Club
Sheffield Bird Study Group
Spurn Bird Observatory
Wakefield Naturalists' Society
York Ornithological Club

Reports and/or lists were also received from individuals or groups for their particular areas being as follows: Bempton Cliffs RSPB Reserve, Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve, Stone Creek/Sunk Island, Flamborough Ornithological Group, Pickering Ornithological Group, Pugney's, Wintersett Res., Tophill Low Wildlife Group, Wath Ings and Broomhill, New Swillington Ings Bird Group, and Pontefract and Castleford Bird Group.

The following is a list of observers who contributed to the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and the very many others who submitted records to their local societies is very much appreciated.

L. Ackland; K. Adamson; N. W. Addey; W. Alexander; A. M. Allport; K. J. & S. Allison; D. Anderson; R. H. Appleby; E. Appleton; P. A. Ardron; B. Armitage; J. S. Armitage; B. Aspin; P. Atkins; A. Atkinson; G. Atkinson; Miss J. E. Atkinson; D. Audas; D. C. Barker; J. Barker; T. Barker; R. Barnes; R. Bashford; G. M. Batten; J. B. Baxter; J. M. Bayldon; R. G. Bayldon; D. Beaumont; P. R. Beaumont; S. Bedlow; S. Beeby; N. A. Bell; M. R. & T. J. Benton; G. R. Bennett; K. Betton; J. Birch; R. Birch; B. Blackburn; E. Blake; A. F. Blunt; D. J. Bowes; P. Bowman; P. Boxall; P. Bradley; C. Braham; R. Broughton; M. F. Brown; R. Brown; H. O. Bunce; A. S. Butler; D. Bywater; P. J. Carlton; G. Carr; G. M. Carr; B. Carroll; M. Carroll; I. Carstairs; G. P. Catley; T. D. Charlton; J. Childs; L. T. Chilton; R. H. Chittenden; J. Clark; W. A. Clark; J. C. Clarkson; T. M. Clegg; E. W. Clubley; S. Cochrane; B. Coddington; P. Colлие; T. Collins; D. Cooper; J. M. Cooper; M. Corner; D. W. Cottee; R. P. Council; M. Coverdale; A. Credland; R. Crofton; R. Crosby; R. Crossley; Miss F. E. Crackles; I. Crowther; R. J. Croxton; J. Cudworth; M. Cunningham; P. Cunningham; M. Curry; Miss C. R. M. Curtis; W. F. Curtis; D. B. Cutts; J. E. Dale; J. M. Dale; S. G. Davies; P. Daw; N. Dawtrey; R. Dean; B. Deavin; K. Denny; S. Denny; M. L. Denton; A. B. Devitt; J. Diley; A. S. Disley; M. Dixon; T. E. Dixon; G. E. Dobbs; T. Dolan; P. Dove; R. Dove; M. Duck; N. Duck; P. J. Dunn; W. Dudhill; K. A. Dutton; W. B. Dye; R. A. Eades; S. Elliott; C. Ellis; T. N. England; R. Evison; Mrs S. Evison; T. Ezard; C. Featherstone; T. Feltham; M. G. Fenner; G. W. Follows; A. Forsyth; I. Forsyth; M. Francis; H. M. Frost; J. Gardner; Mrs. S. Gear; J. Glendinning; B. K. Good; K. S. Good; R. Gorsley; A. G. Gough; K. R. Gould; Miss A. Gowland; M. G. Grainger; A. Grieve; P. R. Giffin; D. Grist; M. J. Grunwell; Miss M. C. Hall; M. Hammond; P. Hansbro; R. C. Harbird; C. G. Harris; P. Harrison; B. Harrison; R. C. Hart; J. Harwood; I. Hawkins; M. Hayes;

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